LFC's Fab Five in focus | Steven Gerrard | Liverpool Ladies | YNWA the stage show | Reds on Instagram

LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine liverpoolfc.com

THIS IS A FANTASTIC FOOTBALL CLUB... IT'S LIKE A FAMILY HERE AND I AM A FAMILY GUY

EMRE CAN EXCLUSIVE

DOMINIC SOLANKE
"Scoring goals is what I do"

JOE GOMEZ
On playing for Jürgen Klopp

JOHN BARNES
A moment of Anfield magic



+ WIN!
PES 2018 LFC EDITION



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ISSUE 63 NOVEMBER 2017

Philippe Coutinho celebrates another stupendous goal – find out inside about his role among Jürgen Klopp's 'fab five' that just keeps attacking and attacking

LIVERPOOL

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SIMON SAVES Seventy-three minutes gone at the King Power Stadium and its 3-2 to Liverpool when Leicester City's Jamie Vardy is challenged by Simon Mignolet in the box and a penalty is given. Vardy goes for power down the middle – his usual spot-kick method – but Mignolet saves



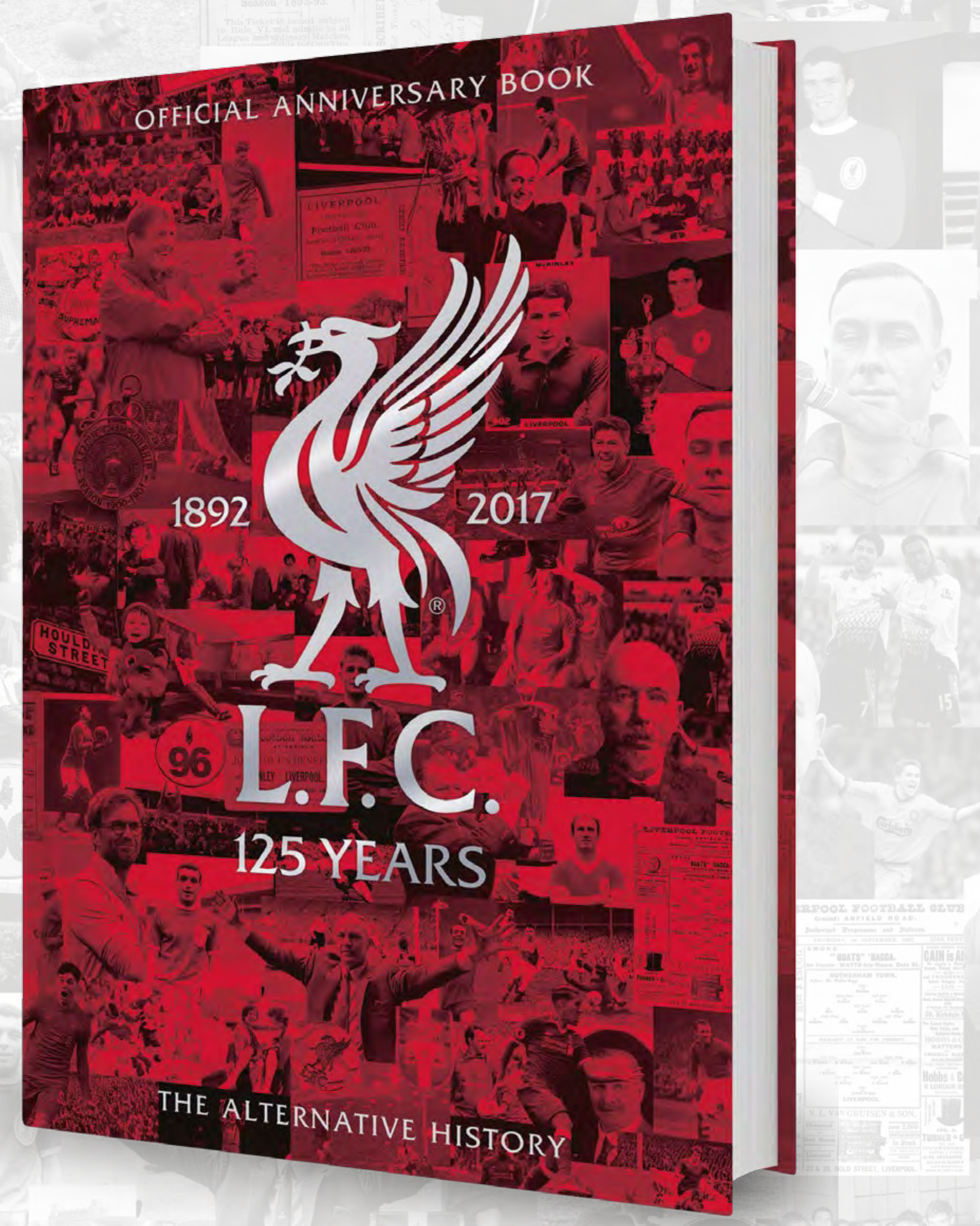
magnificently. "I kept my cool head to try and save it and luckily it paid off," he says. "Three points away from home is the most important thing. The lads fought well and deserved the three points today." He's now saved seven of the 15 Premier League penalties he's faced – more than any other keeper.



RUN FOR IT!
The sun is shining, the day's training is going well, so it's high time someone ran the fun gauntlet at Melwood!


VICTOR
38
21

A CELEBRATION OF LFC'S 125 YEAR HISTORY LIKE NO OTHER...



NEW ANNIVERSARY BOOK ON SALE 26 OCTOBER 2017

Pre-order from sportmediashop.com



Nicky Allt is the creative force behind *YNWA: The Story of Liverpool Football Club* – but what was the title of his book about following the Reds?

Answer on page 98

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The Reds on stage and screen and social-media this month

LIVERPOOL



OUR HISTORY HAS SHAPED THE CLUB AND IT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE

It's the LFC show that has the audience on its feet, and it's back in a new, updated format, explains playwright Nicky Allt



If you've never seen *YNWA: The Story of Liverpool Football Club* performed on stage before then you'd better hurry up.

Written by Scouse playwright Nicky Allt, the highly-acclaimed 90-minute show chronicling LFC's history has returned to Liverpool's Royal Court theatre for a third time following successful runs in 2011 and 2014. But when it ends on Saturday 28 October there are no guarantees it will ever be back.

"In truth we only wanted to put the show on again after Liverpool had won a trophy, but with the 125-year anniversary coming around the club asked us if we would think about putting it on again," says Allt, 56, as we chat on opening night.

"So we've put some new scenes in – for instance, a tribute to Ronnie Moran – and have tightened it up into two 45-minute halves. As a supporter, though, I want to see new trophies and Liverpool make fresh history so until that happens I won't be doing any more Liverpool stuff.

"I love the show but it was put in place to always change and although we've also added Jürgen Klopp and new players to this run, at the end of the day we want to centre it around trophies.

"I can't see us putting *YNWA* on again in three years if we don't win anything before that and we'll only take it on tour again [it ran in Dublin in 2014] after Liverpool have won a trophy."

From 1892 through to 2017, seeing Liverpool FC's 125-year history played out stage with plenty of music and comedy makes for an experience like no other and among the new characters to appear is Reds boss Klopp.

"Klopp features in the last 15 minutes. Because he's a character himself his bit is very entertaining and Lenny Wood, one of the actors, does a very good impression of him, but it's much better if you see it

rather than me giving anything away.

"Jürgen Klopp is made for Liverpool. All he's missing right now is a trophy, but everything else is spot-on.

"The way he is, his persona – he's perfect for Liverpool and perfect for the show."

Nicky is indebted to the cast who bring his writing to life in the 90-minute show – and the passionate audiences that have the Royal Court sounding more like the Kop than a theatre.

"A lot of people make the show happen. The cast – who are virtually the same as in the first run in 2011 – have brought loads to it, as has the musical director Howard Gray. It's a difficult show to do because of Liverpool's history.

"Getting the trophies, tragedies and everything else from the last 125 years into two 45-minute halves isn't easy, so our director helped us to decide what we left out.

"It's a musical, really. We worked with Celtic and called their show *Celtic: The Musical*. I felt it was a bit twee and their hardcore supporters weren't convinced, but when they came to see it they loved it. With *YNWA*, I wish I hadn't seen it. I'm biased, but I'd love to walk into the Royal Court to see it for the first time as a Liverpool fan because it's been knitted together in such a clever way.

"It feels brilliant when I hear the audience singing along to the Liverpool songs during the show.

"The novelty of that never wears off, but the best bit is when I can see people have enjoyed it and are on their feet at the end. We've got the greatest football song in the world in *You'll Never Walk Alone*. When you end a show with that song it's hard to go wrong."

Liverpool's glorious history is a positive that is sometimes turned into a negative. There is a perceived added pressure on the present-day squad to live up to the Anfield achievements of the past and an argument that says shows like *YNWA* only add to the expectations and demands of supporters. Allt, however, rejects any suggestions that LFC's past hinders the present or future.

"If you are a professional and you are confident in your ability you should only revel in Liverpool's history. Would you rather play for a club with a massive history or a club that hasn't won much? I watch the Champions League and when Liverpool, Celtic and even Manchester United are playing in their traditional homes you can feel an aura, a sense of history about the place. Surely you'd rather play for clubs like that.

"So I don't see Liverpool's history as a hindrance. Yes, we go on about our history, but at least we've got something to brag about. I bet supporters of an Ipswich Town or a Southampton, who have had a few cup wins but not many, would love to be in the position of having had more success.

"I believe Liverpool will go on to achieve more under Klopp. He took us to the League Cup and Europa League finals in 2016 – that was a great first season, but people dumbed that down because of our history.

"Because I've written shows like *YNWA* I'm aware that I'm building the wall higher, but you've got to be able to talk about your history.

"We've had the tragedies of Heysel and Hillsborough. Are we just supposed to forget about them too? You can't. Our history has shaped the club and it will shape the future."

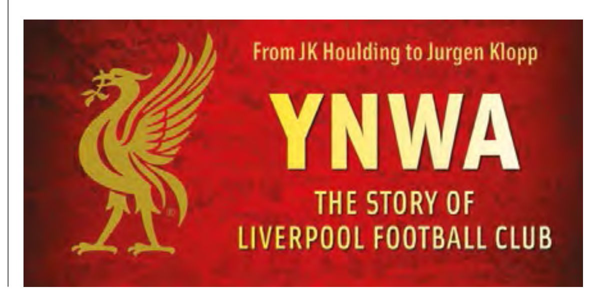
While that future is being shaped you can revel in the past in the present and if you're not usually a theatre-goer Allt says you shouldn't let it put you off trying something different.

"Prices start at £15 so it's good value for money and I know a lot of Liverpool supporters who never normally go to the theatre that came along to see the show. They told me they loved it because it helped them to relive all their favourite moments, but also because of the humour, the songs and being able to watch it with family and friends.

"Granddads, dads and sons all came together to see it and that collective thing of watching a Liverpool show together is the best thing about it."

YNWA: The Story of Liverpool Football Club is on at the Royal Court until 28 October. Visit www.royalcourtliverpool.co.uk or call 0151 709 4321 for tickets.

Don't miss the boss on stage...sort of!



Words: Chris McLoughlin

WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

Mighty Reds past and present are brought to life in latest PES special edition

Steven Gerrard has joined the line-up of Liverpool FC legends available to players of Konami Digital Entertainment's Pro Evolution Soccer 2018.

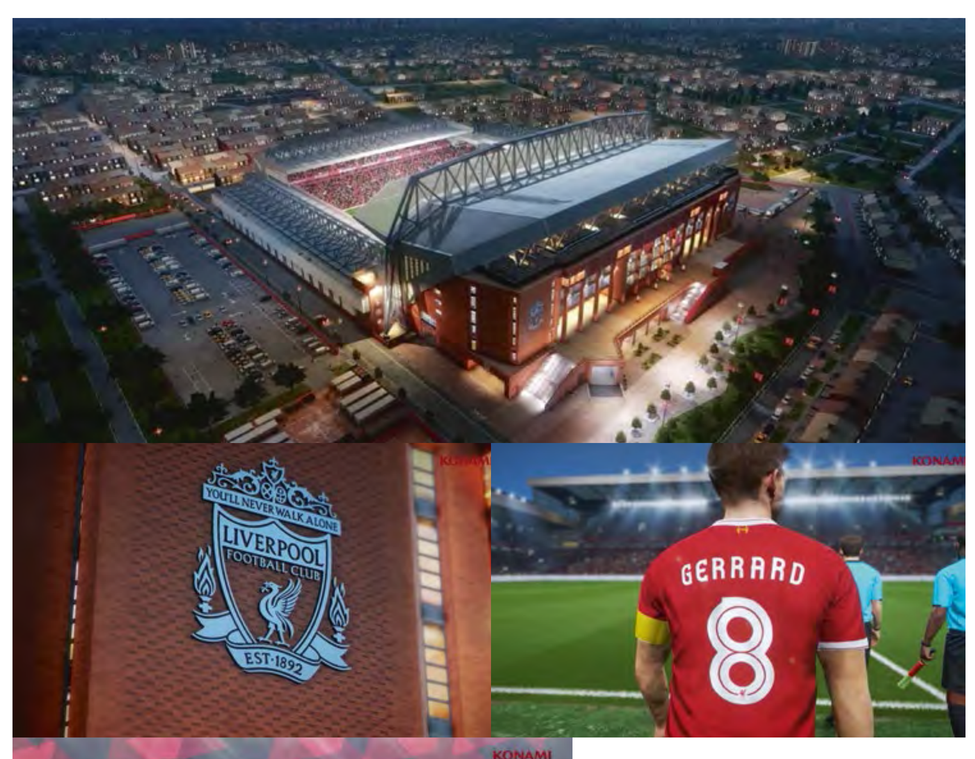
He's one of four new additions to the new game. As well as Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen and Ian Rush, PES fans will also have the chance to sign Steve McManaman, John Barnes and Kevin Keegan to their myClub squads.

Through an extension of the official partnership between LFC and Konami, the games manufacturer have received unrivalled access to ensure the players and stadium are brought to life in PES 2018.

In a press release the club calls it "a much more realistic LFC experience including head-scanning sessions for the LFC squad, coupled with stadium-capture sessions to help enhance the PES player experience at Anfield. Konami will also see their LED promotion increase around Anfield as well as continued online and social support from LFC."

Jonas Lygaard, senior director at Konami, adds: "With its rich history, huge fan-base and dynamic style of play, we are thrilled to continue working together with the club and will ensure that the best of both the past and present of Liverpool FC are perfectly reproduced in PES 2018."

The special PES 2018 LFC edition is available now at **store.liverpoolfc.com/lfc-edition-pro-evolution-soccer-2018**





Win the game!

To be in with a chance of winning the Premium LFC Edition of Pro Evolution Soccer 2018, simply answer the following question (and send your contact details) to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com.

Which LFC Champions League-winning captain features in the new game?

A Emlyn Hughes **B** Phil Thompson
C Steven Gerrard

Winners will be notified by email. Closing date: Friday 10 November 2017. Full T&Cs apply.



PES 2018 LFC edition is PS4 only, standard edition is available on Xbox 360, Xbox One, PS3, PS4 and Steam

SEVILLA FC V LIVERPOOL FC

LIVE
SCREENING AT ANFIELD
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ADULTS £19, CHILDREN (5-16) £9 KIDS UNDER 5 GO FREE

You'll enjoy an evening in a Main Stand hospitality lounge including:

- Watch this UEFA Champions League clash on the big screen at Anfield
- LFC MC to host the event
- An appearance from an LFC Legend
- A visit from the Club's official mascot, Mighty Red
- Beef burger or curry with rice and naan bread
- Free juice for kids

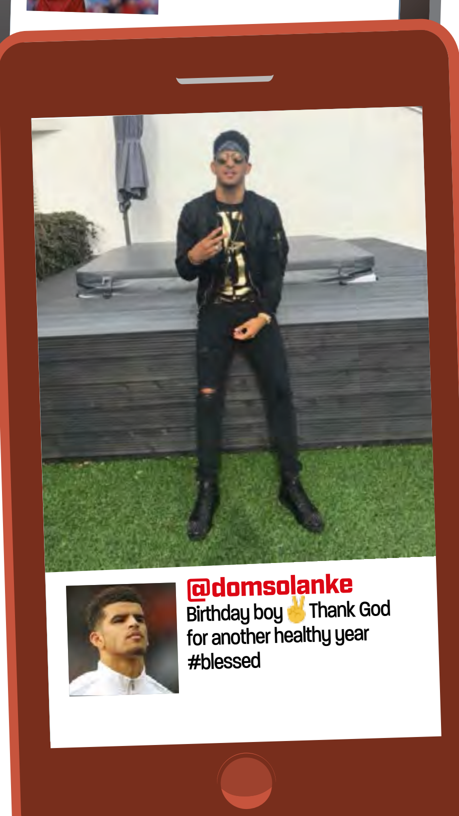
To find out more about this and our other away match screenings
visit **liverpoolfc.com/awayscreening**



REDS ON INSTAGRAM

The best recent LFC-related posts from Moscow to Tyneside

@nathaniel_clyne
Back in the gym 💪🔴



@domsolanke
Birthday boy ✌️ Thank God for another healthy year #blessed



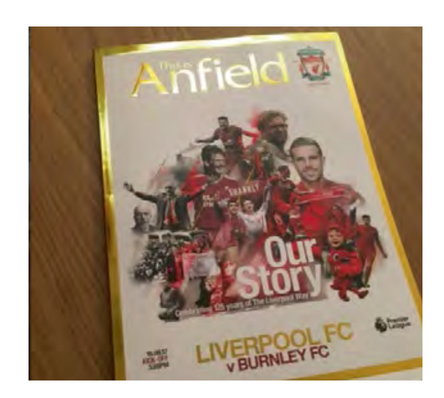


@donhutch4
Love this pic!!!!!!!!! Everyone of these MEN helped me @liverpoolfc in my youth, to first team #Tommo #SH @royevo4 @hugh_mcauleyfa #RMoran and #Benno ❤️⚽ #bootroom 👞





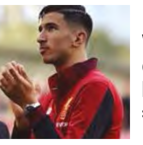
@leivalucas
👏👏👏🎁🎁🎁 TMJ ❤️❤️❤️ @roberto_firmino Happy Birthday my brother, God bless you!!! ❤️❤️❤️





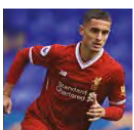
@sport_media_tm
Today's @liverpoolfc programme #LFC #Liverpool #Anfield #ThisisAnfield #matchday #125anniversary #Liverpool125



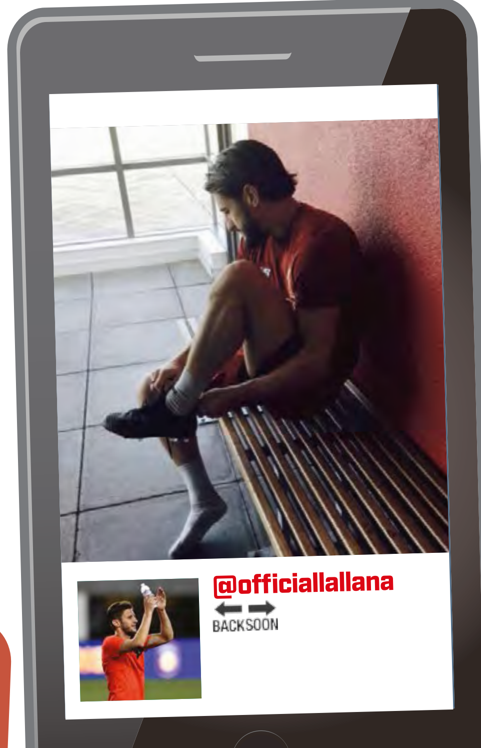


@grujicmarko
When you try to control everything, u enjoy nothing. Relax, breathe, let go and just live 🌅 #sundaymotivation





@yandhanda great win today buzzin to score the winner 😁😁



@officiallallana
⬅➡
BACKSOON

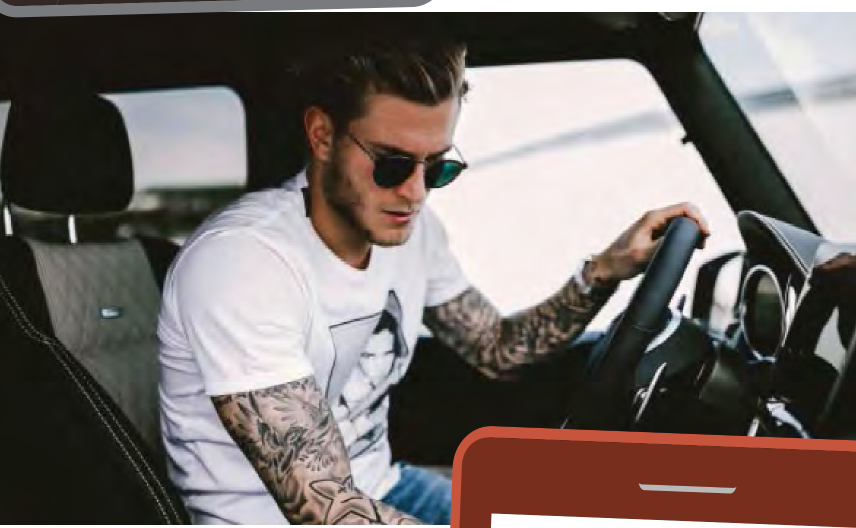




@Mrs1nil
For what it is worth: The view from the away supporters stand at St James Park is great overlooking Newcastle city centre. And even though we disappointingly enough didn't take all three points home to Liverpool – at least we got some proper exercise in all the staircases. Is there any other stadium who makes you climb that many steps? Newcastle and its fans were friendly and i wouldn't mind returning here soon #stjamespark #newliv #liverpool #awaysupport #travelling kopite #newcastle #matchday



@liverpoolfc
Three goals in three consecutive games for Phil

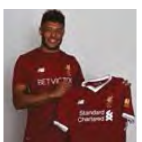


@lorisk21
On my way home 🏡✌
#goodtraining #YNWA #LK1



@melissa_reddy
Blessed to have had another European adventure. Fascinating tifos, chants and red-foil routine pre-match from the Spartak Moscow supporters 🇷🇺 #LFC #Liverpool #LIverpoolFC





@alexoxchamberlain
I tell her she my bestie, bestie, she my bestie



@roberto_firmino
Zoo time with the family 👪

WHAT'S



ON: OCT



Maribor beckons

SLOVENE FEELING

In the Champions League there's a Slovenian double-header for the Reds as they face NK Maribor home and away in Group E the space of a fortnight.

First it's a trip to the People's Garden stadium in Slovenia's wine-growing heartland on Tuesday 17 October, 72 hours after the midday home game against Manchester United in the Premier League. Then on Wednesday 1 November the team managed by Darko Milanic (who was formerly in charge of Leeds United) come to Anfield.

Liverpool have played against a Slovenian team once before: in the UEFA Cup first round of 2003/04 when they drew 1-1 at Olimpija Ljubljana – with Michael Owen breaking Ian Rush's club goalscoring record in Europe with his 21st strike – then won 3-0 at Anfield.

Maribor is the country's second city, set just south of the Austrian border with a reputation for culture and music, jazz in particular. Milanic is in his second spell as coach, having previously won four titles and five cups in five years with the club.

Reds manager Jürgen Klopp said at the time of the draw: "In this moment we don't know a lot about them; a lot of people would underestimate them, we will not."

In-between those Champions League games, Klopp will take his team to Wembley to play Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday 22 October (4pm) then meet up with old pal David Wagner on Saturday 28 October as Anfield welcomes Huddersfield Town (3pm).

WHAT'S ON: OCT



Liverpool Ladies kick off their League Cup campaign with a home tie against the women's team of the world's oldest football club, Sheffield FC, on Wednesday 11 October (7pm). The game sees the return of popular goalkeeper Danielle Gibbons (right) who moved to the FA WSL 2 side this summer.

The full title of the tournament is the FA WSL Continental Tyres Cup and it commences with four groups of five teams. The Reds are in Group One North with Sheffield, Sunderland, Aston Villa and Durham.



LEAGUE CUP LADIES

Anniversaries and birthdays


A familiar sight in the 1980s

It's 34 years since goal machine Ian Rush scored five times in one game: against Luton Town at Anfield on Saturday 29 October 1983.

Two hours before kick-off Rushie had undergone a late fitness test to assess a troublesome groin injury. The Reds had an important European Cup date at Athletic Bilbao on the horizon and manager Bob Paisley didn't want to take any undue risks. How Hatters boss David Pleat and his keeper Les Sealey must have wished that Paisley had erred on the side of caution.

The Welsh international had the ball in the Luton net twice inside the opening five minutes and completed his hat-trick before the half-time whistle, with Kenny Dalglish also on target. Ten minutes into the second half Rush added his fourth: a stunning right-footed volley from Alan Kennedy's cross. When he tapped home his fifth he became only the fourth Liverpool player to score five in a game – a feat since achieved by Robbie Fowler.

After leaving Anfield armed with another matchball, Ian joked: "The lads say I've got so many I can open a sports shop!" His team-mates signed the ball with Kenny Dalglish summing it up succinctly: "Five goals, no sweat. Brilliant."

Bruce Grobbelaar **60** on 6 Oct
Trent Alexander-Arnold **19** on 7 Oct
Sami Hyypia **44** on 7 Oct
Ronny Rosenthal **54** on 11 Oct
Ben Woodburn **18** on 15 Oct
Chris Lawler **74** on 20 Oct
Ian Rush **56** on 20 Oct
Connor Randall **22** on 21 Oct
Paul Ince **49** on 21 Oct
David Johnson **66** on 23 Oct
Willie Stevenson **78** on 26 Oct
Milan Baros **36** on 28 Oct
Ragnar Klavan **32** on 30 Oct
Glenn Hysen **58** on 30 Oct



95 years since Harry Chambers scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Everton at Anfield on 7 Oct 1922.
43 years since full-back Phil Neal signed for the Reds on 9 Oct 1974.
30 years since midfielder Ray Houghton joined LFC on 19 Oct 1987.
2 years since the Reds drew 1-1 with Rubin Kazan in Klopp's first home match on 22 Oct 2015.
125 years since brothers Matt and Hugh McQueen debuted in LFC's first FA Cup tie at Anfield, 9-0 v Newtown, on 29 Oct 1892.

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST

Sat 12	Watford (A)	3-3
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) UCL	2-1
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)	1-0
Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) UCL	4-2
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)	4-0

SEPTEMBER

Sat 9	Manchester City (A)	0-5
Wed 13	**Sevilla** (H) UCL	2-2
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)	1-1
Tue 19	Leicester City (A) CC3	0-2
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)	3-2
Tue 26	Spartak Moscow (A) UCL	1-1

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)	1-1
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)	
Tue 17	Maribor (A) UCL	
Sun 22	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)	

NOVEMBER

Wed 1	**Maribor** (H) UCL
Sat 4	West Ham United (A)
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)
Tue 21	Sevilla (A) UCL
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)

DECEMBER

Sat 2	Brighton (A)
Wed 6	**Spartak Moscow** (H) UCL
Sat 9	**Everton** (H)
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)
Sat 16	AFC Bournemouth (A)
Sat 23	Arsenal (A)
Tues 26	**Swansea City** (H)
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)

JANUARY

Mon 1	Burnley (A)
Sa 6/Su 7	FA Cup 3rd round (TBC)
Sat 13	**Manchester City** (H)
Sat 20	Swansea City (A)
Sa 27/Su 28	FA Cup 4th round (TBC)
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)

FEBRUARY

Sat 3	**Tottenham** (H)
Sat 10	Southampton (A)
Tu 13/We 14	UCL last 16 1st leg
Sa 17/Su 18	FA Cup 5th round (TBC)
Tu 20/We 21	UCL last 16 1st leg
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)

MARCH

Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)
Tu 6/We 7	UCL last 16 2nd leg
Sa 10/Su 11	FA Cup 6th round (TBC)
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)
Tu 13/We 14	UCL last 16 2nd leg
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)

APRIL

Tu 3/We 4	UCL quarter-final 1st leg
Sat 7	Everton (A)
Tu 10/We 11	UCL quarter-final 2nd leg
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)
Sat 21	West Brom (A)
Sa 21/Su 22	FA Cup semi-final (TBC)
Tu 24/We 25	UCL semi-final 1st leg
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)

MAY

Tu 1/We 2	UCL semi-final 2nd leg
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)
Sat 19	FA Cup final (TBC)
Sat 26	UCL final (Kiev)

*UCL = UEFA Champions League


BETVICTOR
66


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FOOTBALL CLUB
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2017
125 YEARS
Probably the best beer in the world
Carlsberg
new balance
WESTERN UNION WU
Standard Chartered
BETVICTOR



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81 NEIL MELLOR'S COLUMN

Philippe Coutinho has scored four times for Liverpool from free-kicks in the Premier League – against which teams? **Answer on page 98**

Liverpool FC's outstanding attack force plus a blast from the past

FOOTBALL

STEVEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Reds legend honoured twice in a month as pals, fellow players and fans pay tribute

He'd be the last person to even mention it, so we'll just have to do it for him: it's been a special time for Steven Gerrard, with two prestigious honours bestowed upon the former Reds skipper and current Under-18s coach.

Firstly he was one of nine people inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame, describing it as "a reward for all the hard work, time and dedication I put into my career.

"The most pleasing thing is to follow in the footsteps of some heroes of mine who have played for this club as well: the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush. I believe Michael Owen is also on the [Hall of Fame] list. But you don't achieve these awards or get rewarded without your team-mates and all the coaching staff that have helped you get to where you are."

Also inducted were: fellow England international Frank Lampard; Kelly Smith, England women's record goalscorer, and Rachel Yankey, capped 129 caps by England; Paralympian footballer Alistair Patrick-Heselton; Charlie Roberts, former Man United captain and Players Union co-founder; ex-players Billy Bonds and Bob Wilson, and the late Gary Speed.

Steven's achievements were then celebrated at the annual Legends of Football event in London which raises funds for music-therapy charity Nordoff Robbins. Receiving this year's award from his former manager at Anfield, Gerard Houllier, he said: "I've lived the dream and I'm very humbled, but Nordoff Robbins are [tonight's] main winners – an excellent charity which uses music to bring people together."

Former Liverpool team-mates Xabi Alonso, Jamie Carragher, Sami Hyypia and Gary McAllister were among the hundreds of guests paying tribute, and there was a special set from Reds fan Ian Broudie too.

LFC's next generation has also been recognised recently, with Ben Woodburn named as young player of the year at the 2017 Football Association of Wales Awards; while Ian Rush was presented with the FA's Special Award in recognition of his services to Welsh football.



Steven and former boss Gerard Houllier





Lightning Seeds live



Carra and Xabi pay tribute to their pal

Rickie hangs up his shooting boots

Former Reds forward Rickie Lambert announced his retirement from playing recently, and everyone at Liverpool Football Club wishes him all the best for his future career.

Now aged 35, the Kirkby-born striker joined Liverpool, the team he grew up supporting, in the summer of 2014. Although opportunities were limited, he's fondly remembered by fans, not least for a great goal at Aston Villa celebrated by running over to the travelling contingent in great delight.

Rickie, who also played for eight other clubs and scored three goals in eight appearances for England, said: "I feel lucky to have been involved in this sport for as long as I have. I've had some ups and downs, but to have represented clubs like Southampton and Liverpool and playing for my country in a World Cup were beyond my wildest dreams."

He retires having scored more league goals than any other player in English football this century, with 219. Next it's Wayne Rooney with 200, Jamie Cureton with 199, Billy Sharp with 193 and Jermain Defoe with 187.





THE AGES OF CAN

From boy at Bayern Munich to maturity beyond his years at Liverpool: in his own words, by Emre Can

GROWING UP FAST

"I was 15 when I left the youth academy at Eintracht Frankfurt for Bayern Munich in 2009, and three seasons later I made my debut in the DFL-Supercup match [like the FA Community Shield] against Jürgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund – as a left-back. We won 2-1 and I played three more times that season, 2012/13, in the senior side.

"Pep Guardiola replaced Jupp Heynckes as Bayern coach in the summer of 2013 and I trained under him for six weeks in pre-season. I could see in that short time that he was an amazing manager and, yeah, one of the best in the world.

"I was very young and for me the important thing was to play football at the highest level. Of course at Bayern it was not that easy because the year before we'd won the league-and-cup double, so I went to see Guardiola and had a very good talk with him.

"He was very honest. He said to me, 'I can't guarantee that you'll play in every game' and I said, 'Okay, fair enough, could I go on loan or something like that?'"



1



"I got the opportunity to go to Bayer Leverkusen, one of the best clubs in Germany, and I played every week under Sami Hyypia and I think I did a good job. Again I started at left-back – it felt more comfortable as a right-footed player to pass inside to team-mates – then I moved into central midfield, taking turns with another guy to go forward or sit deep. It was a good experience.

'I scored my first goal for Leverkusen in a 2-1 win over Augsburg in October 2013, a header that won the game for us after we'd been behind. The month before, I'd made my Champions League debut against Manchester United at Old Trafford. It was a night of mixed emotions because of course it was great to play in the game and I did okay, but we lost 4-2.

"I scored four goals that season and my favourite was another one against Augsburg in a 3-1 away win in March 2014. I took the ball in our own half and just ran and ran, there didn't seem to be many players in front of me. Then I hit the ball past the keeper with my left foot and it went in and I was very happy about that!"

2

COMING OF AGE

THIS IS MELWOOD

3



"In July 2014 I signed for Liverpool and I'll never forget my first day here. I went to Melwood and I was very excited. It was like a dream and I didn't know what was coming, what to expect.

"The season before, Liverpool had finished second in the Premier League, and I had a talk with Brendan Rodgers who told me he wanted me to play box-to-box. But the beginning was difficult for me, if I'm honest. I'd come to England at 20 years old and didn't speak the language that well, and the football was different to Germany, and I picked up an early injury.

"In September I got a knock on the ankle playing for Germany's Under-21 side and it kept me out for six weeks. But when I came back I scored my first Liverpool goal, at home to Chelsea. You can't really describe that feeling, the emotions when you score a goal like that, at Anfield, your first one. It was a moment I will remember always, that day, even though we lost the game.

"That season, 2014/15, I made 40 appearances mostly in a deeper-lying central midfield position but also in defence. And now here I am, three years later at Liverpool – a big club, a fantastic club – and more than 130 games played. It's like a family here and I'm a family guy, and it's going very well."

4 KLOPP STAR

"Jürgen Klopp came here in October 2015 and on the one hand I was very sad that Brendan Rodgers was gone but on the other very happy to see another great manager arrive.

"Of course it was different because every manager has his own style, and I scored the first goal under the new boss, at home to Rubin Kazan in the Europa League. It wasn't that difficult to score – I just had to get in the six-yard box and put the ball in the net.

"Two months later at Southampton in the quarter-finals of the League Cup I made one of my favourite assists: cutting inside then using the outside of the right foot to find Daniel Sturridge. It was one of the moments when you don't think, you just do it. It was a good ball but it was still difficult to score with one touch, which is what Daniel did. It was a great team goal [on a night when the Reds won 6-1] because the movement was good: Divock coming to the ball, Daniel going away, it made it hard for them [Southampton] to defend.

"Reaching two finals that season was bittersweet. We played well against Manchester City in the League Cup final at Wembley and when it goes to penalties it's not just luck but it does play a big part.

"In the Europa League I damaged my ligaments in the second leg against Dortmund at Anfield but was back for the semi-final with Villarreal and then the final. Against Sevilla we started very well and dominated the game in the first half. Then in the second half we came out and conceded a very early goal and Sevilla played well.

"I had a manager with Germany's Under-21s, Horst Hrubesch, who said always to me: 'Emre, when you come to the final it makes no sense to lose it'. And that's what I always think. When you have the opportunity to win a trophy you have to use it."



GOAL OF THE SEASON





5

"The first half of 2016/17 wasn't a particularly good time for me. I wasn't happy with my performances and I was injured and maybe in private I was thinking about things too much: what could I do better, was I good enough...

"It wasn't the Emre that I know from myself. Twenty minutes into games I was getting tight calves and it was really difficult to play for me. I couldn't perform at 100 per cent, I couldn't help the team, and it was very difficult. But everybody has to go through times like that and I learned a lot. I came out stronger.

"I would say I am happy with my three-and-a-half years here so far but I know I still have a lot of improvements I can make.

"The second half of 2016/17 was better. After I scored against Watford with the overhead volley everybody seemed to get in touch! I couldn't get through all the messages on my phone.

"Of course it's a goal to remember always, definitely the best I've scored so far in career. A good ball from Lucas, and then that moment you don't think, you just do it, and the ball went in and then my emotions just exploded!

"More importantly, though, it was the winning goal for us at a very, very important time in the race for the Champions League places. That was more important than it being a beautiful goal."

"Last summer I played for Germany in all of our Confederations Cup games in Russia, against Australia [won 3-2], Chile [1-1], Cameroon [3-1], Mexico [4-1 in the semis] and Chile [1-0 in the final].

"Previously I'd played at various youth-levels. At the 2011 Under-17 Euros in Serbia I captained the team in the final against the Netherlands [Emre was also named in the team of the tournament for his changing role first as a 'screening' midfielder then in a more attacking deployment].

"[Former Reds striker] Samed Yesil was also in that Germany side. We were both at Leverkusen, too, but not in the same teams. When I played with him he scored so many goals for the national team, and unfortunately when he came to Liverpool he had big injuries [cruciate-ligament] and at a young age it's very difficult. But now he's fully recovered and scoring again [for Panionios in Greece] and I'm very happy because he's a good guy and a good friend. I hope he will come back one day to the top, top level.

"We both scored for Germany in the 2011 Under-17 World Cup, against Mexico in the semi-finals, and that year I received the Fritz Walter Medal [an annual award for young players named after the captain of West Germany's 1954 World Cup winners]. I was awarded it at U17 level, Julian Draxler for U18 and Marc-Andre ter Stegen for U19. It was a big honour for me.

"At the end of 2014/15 I played for Germany at the U21 Euros in the Czech Republic and we reached the semis under Hrubesch. Ask other players from that time, like Antonio Rudiger [now at Chelsea] and Amin Youness [Ajax] and they'll say the same thing: he was a special manager, almost like a dad. Old-school but a great guy, and a lot of players have to be thankful to him.

"I was first called up for the seniors in August 2015 by Joachim Low, for a Euro 2016 qualifier against Poland in Frankfurt, and I played at right-back [in a 3-1 win]. I play slightly differently with Germany compared to Liverpool. I would say that happens with national teams and your club side.

"It was great to win the Confederations Cup in Russia because no one expected it. We were a very new team and we hadn't played that much together, but there were a lot of good players.

"Of course there was the captain Julian Draxler [now at PSG], everybody knows him. Then you have Joshua Kimmich, who's playing for Bayern Munich and a great player. Ter Stegen, Barcelona – everybody knows him too – and [Sebastian] Rudy who went to Bayern Munich from Hoffenheim.

"We also have Shkodran Mustafi, who's playing for Arsenal, and Matthias Ginter of Gladbach who's a world champion. And there is Niklas Sule, another from Hoffenheim who's now at Bayern Munich, and Lars Stindl, the captain from Gladbach. Also Jonas Hector from Cologne and Schalke's Leon Goretzka. A lot of good, good players."

GERMANY v CHILE
22 JUNE 2017
Kazan Arena, Kazan





6 PATRIOT GAMES

Interview: David Cottrell

MODERN MIDFIELDER



"I turn 24 in January and I'm very proud to have already made so many appearances for Liverpool. At times this season I've been dropping deeper but there have still been chances for me to get forward to support the attack and even score.

"I was a little deeper in the recent home game with Burnley; a more disciplined role that means I can't always go forward and be around the opponent's box. Instead I help to build moves from the back, build the game with the centre-backs and have more touches. But when you've got players like Mo Salah and Sadio Mane in front of you, it's great because they are quick and like to go behind the [defensive] line and you can play the ball and it's not that difficult for them [to run onto and score].

"Mo's always making great runs behind the last line and against Burnley I just saw an opportunity to play the ball at the right time. It's all about timing. But of course it was not easy after the pass and Mo did brilliantly to score.

"Earlier, against Hoffenheim in the Champions League [play-off second leg] I scored twice and the second was a great team goal. The ball was played deep to Firmino, who let it drop to Gini, who played a long ball to Sadio, who touched the ball twice then back-heeled to Roberto, who hit a perfect cross, and I just had to be there and score. It was a fantastic team goal and I hope we'll see that kind of goal more often from us this season.

"Against Sevilla at Anfield it was tougher but again we played very well and scored another great goal with the equaliser. It's different when you play against teams from other countries: some are more technical, some more physical, some tackle more. Yeah, all different and all making it very exciting to watch.

"With Liverpool I think I've got about ten goals in total so far. Sometimes I think I could score more. Whether it's running with the ball and finishing or shooting from long-distance, I always try to find the opportunity but it isn't always easy."



They're Liverpool's Fab Five and at their best they're simply irresistible, each bringing something special to the front line


TACK
TACK
Standard Chartered
Standard Chartered



Attributes: Strength. Movement. Combination-play. Goals.
Analysis: Bobby was considered a wide attacking midfielder when he arrived at LFC in 2015, but since being utilised by Jürgen Klopp as a 'false-nine' – a central forward with licence to play between the lines – he's thrived, linking Liverpool's forward-play and contributing goals with both his feet and head.
Need to know: Firmino has scored and assisted in a single game on eight occasions for the Reds since his Premier League debut in August 2015.
The boss: "People say he doesn't score enough. What?! He is the best player without scoring with how well he reads the game for the benefit of others. Outstanding."
Bobby says: "It's nice to score goals but how we perform as a team is more important. We've got more games this season but I would play twice a week if we could – it shows we're moving in the right direction."



LFC APPS 73

LFC GOALS 23

LFC ASSISTS 16

LFC SHOTS 178

Premier League stats up to and including Sunday 1 October 2017


1892
2017
L.F.C.
125 YEARS
Standard
Chartered

COUTINHO



THE LITTLE MAGICIAN

Attributes: Skill. Control. Guile. Creativity. Stunning goals.
Analysis: No player has netted more Premier League goals from outside the penalty-area since Coutinho arrived at Anfield in 2013, yet the little magician is so much more than a scorer of great goals. Whether playing deeper in midfield or further forward, he appears to have the ball on a string at times with his intricate and defence-splitting passes a prime source of goalscoring opportunities.
Need to know: Coutinho's goal at Newcastle United meant he'd scored more goals from outside the box than any other player in the Prem since his debut (17).
The boss: "I knew of Phil before I came to Liverpool and I was well aware of what a talent he was. But since arriving here I have not only witnessed his ability up close but also his ever-continuing development. He is truly world-class – in that very top bracket."
Philippe says: "Playing alongside these guys who are intelligent, athletic and talented is a real joy – even in training you can see that everything clicks naturally between us."

LFC APPS 141

LFC GOALS 36

LFC ASSISTS 30

LFC SHOTS 467

Words: Chris McLoughlin





Attributes: Acceleration. Dribbling. Pace. Finishing.
Analysis: Sadio is arguably the most exciting player in the entire Premier League to watch when in full flow. Equally adept at flying down the left or right, the Senegal international is lightning-quick, capable of zipping past defenders and knows where the back of the net is with his habit of scoring important goals in the big games proving to be rather handy on Merseyside derby day.
Need to know: Mane has scored with his first shot on target in the Premier League in both the 2016/17 and 17/18 seasons: versus Arsenal and Watford (both away).
The boss: "He has a lot of quality, works hard and has a very good goalscoring record. He was passionate about joining the club and playing for our fantastic fans and they've been just as excited about seeing him put on a Liverpool shirt as me."
Sadio says: "Without my team-mates I'm nothing – I always strive to work hard alongside them. We have great quality in the team and we can beat anyone in this league."



LFC GOALS 16

LFC ASSISTS 5

LFC SHOTS 69


Standard
Chartered



Attributes: Timing. Movement. Acceleration. Goals.
Analysis: Mo has already shown in his short but flourishing Liverpool career that when he gets going opponents might as well wave goodbye rather than try to catch him. Not only has his pace and shrewd off-the-ball movement given the Reds an added dimension, the Egyptian international's instincts take him into goalscoring positions inside the box, making him a difficult man to stop.
Need to know: Salah's goal in the opener at Watford this season made him the 12th player to score on his Premier League debut for Liverpool.
The boss: "Mo has played better than anyone could have imagined. He's a very good player, much more mature [than when he was younger]; his style of play and also physically – everything is better. I'm not surprised, but you shouldn't take things like this for granted as sometimes players need time."
Mo says: "I knew these guys were all fantastic players and it's great to play alongside them. We have a great team and I hope that together we can give everything to win something for the club, for the supporters."

LFC APPS 7

LFC GOALS 4

LFC ASSISTS 1

LFC SHOTS 24


KING POWER STADIUM
11
adidas



Attributes: Finishing. Control. Composure. Accuracy. Goals.
Analysis: Averaging a goal almost every other game, Daniel's ratio of 51 in 87 starts in all competitions is testament to his finishing ability. Making runs to give his creative team-mates openings and sniffing out chances is the England forward's game.
Need to know: Last year Daniel became the fourth-quickest post-war Reds player to score 50 goals (in all comps), doing so in just 87 appearances, after Albert Stubbins (77), Roger Hunt (79) and Fernando Torres (84).
The boss: "For me, there was not a second of doubt about Daniel Sturridge. I trust him 100 per cent. He's an instinctive footballer and a fantastic striker."
Daniel says: "The way in which we go about our business, not just at home but in general – starting fast, high-press, putting the opposition under a lot of pressure, making them make mistakes and then capitalising on the counter-attack – it works for us with the pace we have."

LFC APPS 94

LFC GOALS 47

LFC ASSISTS 14

LFC SHOTS 313




BETVICTOR
NB DRY

LION OF LIVERPOOL

His goals for England won him the Golden Ball at last summer's Under-20s World Cup – now Dominic Solanke dreams of doing it again and again for his club


Standard
Chartered

Transfers from Chelsea FC to Liverpool FC have always been something of a rarity, all told.

Towering centre-forward Tony Hateley was the first to swap Stamford Bridge for Anfield in 1967, but it was two decades later in 1987 before Nigel Spackman became the second man to make the same move. A further 26 years down the line, in 2013, striker Daniel Sturridge also changed blue for red and Victor Moses spent 2013/14 on loan here from Chelsea, but that has been it.

At least it was until Dominic Solanke became a Liverpool player on Saturday 1 July 2017.

The 20-year-old striker was born in Basingstoke and came through the ranks at Chelsea, but with his path to the first-team blocked he opted to join the Reds instead. It's early days but the fact that Solanke made more first-team appearances in five August days for Liverpool than he did in three seasons with Chelsea was a key reason for his transfer. He wants to play football.

I WANT TO PLAY AS MUCH AS I CAN, HELP THE TEAM AND AFFECT RESULTS FOR LIVERPOOL

"I want to play as much as I can, help the team as much as I can and affect results for Liverpool," says Solanke as we chat at Melwood before a Friday training session.

"I've settled in really well here. I felt settled in the first couple of weeks really. Everyone made me feel welcome from the word go so that helped me settle, and it has helped me on the pitch as well.

"The North West is a bit different to London. I've lived around that area for most of my life from when I was younger and I know a lot of people down there. To come up here knowing less people was obviously different for me, but knowing a few of the boys already has helped and, like I said, I've been made to feel very welcome at Liverpool."

The carrot of Champions League football is something Jürgen Klopp was able to dangle in front of prospective signings during the summer transfer-window but as someone who was already playing for a club competing for the trophy



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Going close in pre-season v Athletic Bilbao

THE YOUNG PLAYERS HERE ARE CONFIDENT AND NOT AFRAID TO DO WHAT THEY DO ON THE BALL

did that have any influence on Solanke's thinking?

"Everyone always says they want to play in the Champions League and with the squad we've got I think we can do well in it, so it wasn't a tough decision to come here. I knew it would be a good move for me.

"We've got a really good squad here at Liverpool and I think we could do very well this season if we can be consistent and play to the level which we know we are capable of."

Liverpool and Chelsea, of course, are very different clubs with very different fanbases in very different cities, but I'm intrigued to know how different they are to play for.

"Not too different," he says, somewhat surprisingly.

"Obviously there are always different coaching styles when you work under different managers after moving clubs, but the aspect of always working towards the next game is the same. Wherever you go as a footballer you have to work hard. I came here at the start of the summer transfer-window and my first part of being a Liverpool player was pre-season. That was very tough! But it's good to work hard and this squad is amazing when you look at the young players here.

"Straightaway I could see that all of the young players here are really confident and are not afraid to do what they do on the ball. They believe in themselves and that's because the other players here make them feel comfortable.

"It has definitely helped me already to have a few boys of a similar age to me in the squad. We can all help each other and look up to the older players as well."

By older players does he mean like the two other former Chelsea men in the Liverpool squad, Daniel Sturridge and Mo Salah?

"Definitely. I can see in training how experienced, confident and professional Daniel is. You can look up to that, being young,



because he's been there and been through it all, so you can take a lot of tips from that.

"I was at Chelsea with Mo and I'm not surprised at all at how well he has started at Liverpool. I could always tell at Chelsea that he is a good player and then he went abroad to Roma and did really well. When I saw he was coming back to England to play for Liverpool I knew he would do very well for the club.

"As a striker, when you've got quick wingers like Mo and Sadio [Mane] either side of you it is a really good feeling, especially as you know both have the quality to beat their man and deliver the ball. They're so quick that once they're off it's hard to keep up with them, but it's really good to have that pace in the team."

Mane benefited from Solanke's presence on the pitch during the first home Premier League game of the season against Crystal Palace. Brought on in the 71st minute for Gini Wijnaldum, within 90 seconds he challenged Luka Milivojevic on the edge of the Palace box and the ball rebounded into the path of Mane. The Senegalese speedster made no mistake to give Liverpool a 1-0 win.

"It was amazing because it was my first ever game at Anfield," smiles Solanke when I mention his home debut. "That was what I was waiting for, really, to play at Anfield and it didn't disappoint. I could always tell from watching the games on TV at

Anfield that it was quality. But to actually experience it as a Liverpool player for the first time was amazing.

"I sort of got an assist for the goal! I played a part in it so that was good, coming on my home debut, because the manager had shown some belief in me to put me on with the game that tight. To contribute in that way was a really good start for me at Anfield.

"As a striker it's important to both score goals and create them. You've got to mainly score goals, but if you can create them as well that's another way of hurting the opposition and contributing to the team."

I ask Solanke if he regards himself as a natural finisher? "Yeah, I think so – I've played as a forward or striker for my whole life, so scoring goals is what I do."

Then I mention season 2014/15 when he netted 41 at youth level before his loan move to Vitesse. "That year at Chelsea when I scored 41 in the youth ranks was one of my best seasons.

I'VE PLAYED AS A FORWARD FOR MY WHOLE LIFE, SO I LIKE TO THINK SCORING GOALS IS WHAT I DO

I was just trying to score, score, score that season and I managed to do that, which was really good for me. Scoring goals gets you noticed. People started to notice my name on the scoresheet week in, week out."

He's right because goals no39, 40 and 41 of that season certainly caught some attention on Merseyside as they came in a 4-3 win against Liverpool in the U21 Premier League. Solanke's new LFC team-mates Harry Wilson, Cameron Brannagan, Lloyd Jones and the out-on-loan Ryan Kent, Sheyi Ojo and Connor Randall were in the Reds team at Aldershot that night, but he isn't one to crow about getting one over on them.

"I remember that game well," he says with a grin. "I was really chuffed at the time to score a hat-trick against a big club like Liverpool, it was a good night for me."

Speaking of good nights, they surely don't get too much better than winning the World Cup. Solanke was England's leading scorer with four goals as the Three Lions won the Under-20 World Cup in South Korea during the summer, becoming the first men's team to so since England's senior side in 1966.

"It was crazy, winning the World Cup! Being in another country for so long was a new experience and it was tough at times, but we stuck to it and managed to get the results to make it all worthwhile. South Korea is very different but we were there to try to win the tournament and we had a great squad. Myself and a few of the other boys had won the U17s Euros in 2014 so we know each other quite well. We always think we can do well in tournaments.

"When we got into the knock-out stages we started to think that we could go all the way and win the trophy, so to do that was amazing."

Ojo and Ovie Ejaria were also part of Paul Simpson's squad, but it was Solanke who captured a lot of the headlines. He scored a penalty in a 3-0 group-stage win against Argentina, the only goal of the game in a 1-0 quarter-final victory over Mexico, and twice as England beat Italy 3-1 in the semi-finals.




England marksman

Those goals and his individual performances subsequently earned the highest recognition when he was named as the player of the tournament and received the Golden Ball, an award that has previously been won by Javier Saviola (2001), Lionel Messi (2005), Sergio Aguero (2007) and Paul Pogba (2013). Quite a list of names.

"To get the Golden Ball was unbelievable. I'd been scoring quite a few important goals so towards the end of the tournament I started to think that maybe I had a chance of winning it. When the final whistle went after we beat Venezuela in the final it was an amazing feeling. But I then got the news that I had won the Golden Ball for being the best player in the tournament. That just capped it off.

"When we were lining up to get the World Cup trophy, an official came up to me and told me I'd be presented with the Golden Ball as well. I was was bit confused and amazed that I'd won it, but it was a special achievement for me and it has made me ambitious to win more.

"That's what everybody plays football for. Winning trophies is the best feeling and when you win something once, you want more."

Solanke also now has five caps at England Under-21 level having been handed his debut by the current England manager Gareth Southgate in November 2015. He played against the Netherlands and Latvia during the September international break and I ask whether he believes U21s selection is another step on the ladder for his career?

TO GET THE GOLDEN BALL WAS UNBELIEVABLE! IT'S JUST THE BEST FEELING

"Definitely. It's one step away from the seniors so if you carry on doing well for your club and performing well when you go away on the international breaks you can keep going up.

"Look at Joe Gomez. I've known Joe for a long-time now – we were both in the England Under-17s team together – and seeing him out injured for so long wasn't good.

"Now he's come back, done really well for Liverpool and is now the captain of England Under-21s. He's done so well to overcome his injury and be made captain, I'm really happy for him."

As for Solanke then this polite, professional young man is clearly ambitious, but also creates the impression of being a humble guy who is determined to do his talking on the pitch – something that comes across when I enquire as to his targets for the rest of his first season as a Liverpool player.

"I've got to take it game-by-game and, when I get the opportunity, do what I've got to do to help the team get the results we need. And, like I said, I think we can do really well this season."

What's it like to go on loan?

There are seven Liverpool FC players currently out on loan at other clubs, but while Sheyi Ojo (Fulham) and Connor Randall (Hearts) have stayed on the British Isles, four of their team-mates have moved abroad.

Divock Origi (Wolfsburg) and Ryan Kent (Freiburg) are in Germany, Taiwo Awoniyi is in Belgium playing for Royal Excel Mouscron, Allan is with Apollon Limassol in Cyprus and Pedro Chirivella (right) has linked up with Holland's Willem II.

Playing loan-football on the Continent is something that Dominic Solanke (whose name is an anagram of In Comes Loan Kid!) knows all about.

The striker was six weeks short of his 18th birthday in 2015 when Chelsea loaned him out to Dutch Eredivisie club Vitesse Arnhem, where he was handed the number nine shirt and given game-time.

He netted seven goals in 26 league and cup games for Vitesse, who had a 100 per cent record when he scored, making him well-placed to explain what it's like for young players to make a loan move to a different country. "It is good getting away from England and just focusing on your football. It helps you develop to see different cultures and different styles of play, so it was good for me to go to Holland at such a young age.

"The Dutch league was more technical and not as physical as it is in England, and it was definitely a big step for me to be playing men's football by getting first-team games under my belt.

"I also played at some big stadiums in front of big crowds and that is a difference you notice compared to when you are playing youth football. You feel like there's more spotlight on you at the start – you know that it's a big game before kick-off – but when you're on the pitch you've got to learn to block that out and focus on your job."



Words: Chris McLoughlin


125 YEARS



THERE IS SO MUCH CREATIVITY AND SKILL AND PACE IN THIS TEAM THAT IT PUSHES YOU EVERY DAY TO IMPROVE

Joe Gomez "feels in a good place now" as he continues to impress for his club and assumes the captaincy of his country's next generation


KING POWER

FOR ME IT'S ABOUT USING ALL MY HUNGER AND MOTIVATION TO REALLY MOVE FORWARD NOW

In years to come, it may turn out to be one of those *Sliding Doors* moments.

During the middle of the last summer transfer-window, several clubs were reportedly interested in taking Joe Gomez on a season-long loan.

The defender however, was determined to stay at Anfield and continue his development under Jürgen Klopp.

Back in October 2015, the German's managerial reign at Liverpool was only five days old when Gomez suffered a season-ending anterior cruciate-ligament injury while playing for England's Under-21s. An Achilles issue followed and he worked so hard during his rehabilitation that he put on too much muscle. This summer, though, Joe has felt he's back to full fitness and the 20-year-old's decision to stay put looks like a shrewd one.

Soon after starring in the 4-0 win over Arsenal at Anfield, he had happier news on the England Under-21s front, being named captain for their 2019 Euros qualifying campaign.

Last month he discovered that he'd been shortlisted for the prestigious 'European Golden Boy' award.

Run by the Italian newspaper *Tuttosport*, it's awarded to Europe's most impressive footballer under the age of 21 and has been won by such latter-day luminaries as Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero.

After taking tentative steps on his road to recovery with three appearances in the FA Cup last season, the gifted youngster admits that Klopp's influence has already been huge. The Reds boss suffered similar setbacks as a player himself and was able to offer words of wisdom and encouragement to Joe, who now wants to repay that faith and patience.

By the start of October the youngster had made a handful Premier League appearances at right-back as well as starts in the Champions League and Carabao Cup, the latter at centre-back.

"He [Klopp] has been great for someone like me going through an injury like that and then coming back. For him to be able to bed me in and speak to me at the same time has been ideal, and it's made it a lot easier for me in comparison to how it could have been.

"He did his ACL previously, so there was that similarity in that he understands what it's like to go through something like that and also know that when you come back things might not quite be the same. He understood the procedure and what was going on.

"With him I think it's about the individual connection – it's more



than just about speaking to you as manager-to-player. There's an emotional connection there and it makes you want to play for him and for the club. He takes time out for you and I think he's aware of everyone's feelings. He's able to assess how people are feeling and is able to speak to them like normal people.

"Of course when you get players who are not playing in the team, they are not going to be happy. But he is able to take that side out of it and just speak to you in a straightforward way. As I say, it makes you want to play for him. If you spoke to all the lads in the dressing-room, everyone has such a desire and passion to play for him and that only works best for the players and for the team.

"I want to play for him and for the club and try to put [the injuries] behind me. I'm thankful for the opportunities that he has been giving me. When I was out, he was someone I was always dreaming of playing for, but the timing was difficult and I didn't get the chance. Now I'm just thankful and want to keep taking it in my stride."

The Reds no12 is now channelling the motivation he felt during his time on the sidelines to take advantage of the chances that come his way. He knows better than most that injuries are a part of football and wasn't about to let an opportunity slip when asked to deputise for Nathaniel Clyne.

"Obviously you wouldn't wish injury on anyone and he's my team-mate and I want him to come back as quickly as possible but it's an opportunity for myself and Trent [Alexander-Arnold] to try and grasp, to fill in for him and help the team as well.

"At clubs like this there is always top talent and Trent's another example of that.

"We are good mates and we play together at international level as well with the England U21s. Sometimes we play a bit of pool together up in the players' canteen at Melwood. He's a tiny bit younger than me but he's a great guy, a Scouse lad while I'm from London so that's a little bit different.

"The last couple of years haven't always been easy. I had my setbacks during the rehab but I'm getting on towards a year of solid training under my belt now, and mentally I've been keen not to dwell on the past. I feel in a good place now and it's more about using the motivation and hunger that I had from that period. It's about moving forward and trying to make the best of what I can do."

Joe started the Anfield victories over Crystal Palace and Arsenal, helping the Reds keep clean-sheets in both games. He also made his full Champions League debut, giving an assured display against Sevilla before




EVERYONE IN THE DRESSING-ROOM HERE HAS A DESIRE AND PASSION TO PLAY FOR THE BOSS
L.F.C.
BETVICTOR

getting a second yellow card from the referee in injury-time. He apologised the following day on Instagram:

"Sorry if I let the lads down… something to learn from personally. Thanks for your support…YNWA."

That setback aside, he admits to relishing the opportunity to play at right-back in this team. "It is obviously quite different to playing centre-half and I would say that longer term I would see myself playing centre-back in the future.

"At this moment in time, though, it's only helping my defensive awareness and I see it as a learning opportunity to play at full-back, get minutes under my belt and be able to play in the team."

Performing at the top level brings extra scrutiny and doing it for Liverpool brings perhaps even greater analysis. But while some pundits like to peruse the goals-against column, Gomez accepts that it's all part of the modern game of football.

OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO WORK ON BUT WE'VE GOT TOP-CLASS DEFENDERS

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion. There are a lot of people out there who will make judgements, but at the end of the day we can't really pay attention to that. We have to do our jobs and there is never a time when we will go out on the pitch not trying to do that.

"Obviously there are things we need to work on as a defensive unit to try to get better so that we concede less goals and so on. I think we're all still learning but we've got great quality in the team and top-class defenders, so the potential is there."

Weighing up the first seven rounds of matches in this fledgling Premier League season, Joe believes the division will be more fiercely contested than last term when 24 points separated champions Chelsea and sixth-placed Manchester United.

"It will definitely be a lot closer. You look at it now and there are so many teams with so much talent in them. A few of them might have been in a transition period last season, but I think a lot of managers have moulded their teams the way they have wanted to now and so I believe it will be a lot tighter this year.

"That's what comes with the

Alexander-Arnold on Gomez

"Joe stepped up to the England Under-21s a couple of years ago when he was still only 18 and he proved then that he deserved to be there.

"He got hit with a really long injury but he's done unbelievably well to get back to where he is now. He's come back fitter, stronger, faster, sharper. He's just an incredible athlete and an incredible guy on and off the pitch. I think he absolutely deserves that England U21s armband 100 per cent because he's a leader on and off the pitch.

"I made my debut for the Under-21s last month and it definitely makes it that little bit easier when you've got people from your club there with you. It was good for me to have Joe and Dom Solanke there too. It's always good to have a few Liverpool lads in and around the England teams.

"Just as is the case with Liverpool, we're not going into the competitions we are entering just to take part, we're going into them to try and win them as the U20s did at the World Cup this summer. We'll give it everything for club and country."






Standard
Chartered

excitement of the Premier League. It only makes it better both for us playing and for everyone watching, so hopefully it will be a good season."

Liverpool have added to the quality in their own ranks with the addition of attacking talent such as Mo Salah, Dominic Solanke – like Gomez on the shortlist for the European Golden Boy award – and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Joe admits that coming up against those three in training on a regular basis, plus players such as Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino, Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho, helps to keep him on his toes.

"That's one of the reasons you want to come to a club like this in the first place – there is so much creativity and pace and so much skill that it pushes you every day. There is not a day that you can afford to be unprepared for it or you'll be punished.

"It's great for me to play alongside those players. Obviously it's a test because, as you can see with the teams we come up against in the Premier League, it's difficult for opposing defences. Our attackers cause them problems and they do the same to us in training, but it can only develop me.

"We work on our shape and play 11-v-11 in training and they're attacking you full-throttle in the same way that they would do anyone else. Obviously being the top players they are, it makes it difficult for you. But at the same time I know it can only improve me and that's the opportunity of being at a club like this."

Oxlade-Chamberlain became Liverpool's latest recruit when he made the switch from Arsenal in the final 48 hours of the transfer-window. Gomez says the whole squad received a big boost at seeing someone of his stature being added to the ranks.

"Everyone's buzzing. He's a great signing and a well-established Premier League player. He had a good relationship with a lot of the lads before he signed as there is a strong core of England players at the club. I think it will be easy for him to settle in and his ability speaks for itself.

"Everyone knows how good a player he is and hopefully he can bring more success to the team.

"He seems like a great guy and I'm sure he'll bring a lot to the dressing-room as well as on the pitch. It can only help having more leaders within the team.

"The fact that he decided to join us is massive. Obviously this is a big club as Arsenal and Chelsea are, so to make the choice to come here shows the desire he has to play for Liverpool and that's what you want in the dressing-room. Walking around the place, he seems like a bubbly



Joe Gomez: England skipper

THE CAPTAINCY CAME AS A SURPRISE BUT IT WAS A NICE MOMENT AND A BIG HONOUR

character and so I'm looking forward to getting to know him and to play alongside him."

As for his own career trajectory, Gomez says he was surprised when England U21s manager Aidy Boothroyd handed him the captaincy ahead of the opening 2019 Euros qualifier in Holland last month.

England secured a 1-1 draw in the Netherlands before beating Latvia 3-0 at Bournemouth, a game which saw Joe named man-of-the-match. As this magazine went to press, the Young Lions were set to face Scotland at Middlesbrough then visit Andorra in October's qualifying games.

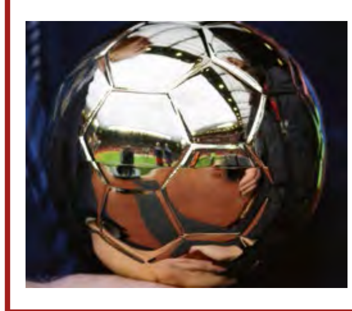
"It [the captaincy] came as a surprise but obviously it's positive news for me and it was a nice moment when I was told by the manager. It's a big honour and I hope it's the start of a successful campaign for England U21s and hopefully I can do well in trying to lead the team.

"There's only one person who can be captain so I'm thankful for the opportunity. It's a big plus for me to be given that chance and I just hope that I can do it well and with success."

Interview: William Hughes

2017 European Golden Boy shortlist

Jean-Kevin Augustin (RB Leipzig)
Rodrigo Bentacur (Juventus)
Steven Bergwijn (PSV Eindhoven)
Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Everton)
Federico Chiesa (Fiorentina)
Ousmane Dembele (Barcelona)
Amadou Diawara (Napoli)
Kasper Dolberg (Ajax)
Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan)
Joe Gomez (Liverpool)
Benjamin Henrichs (Bayer Leverkusen)
Theo Hernandez (Real Madrid)
Gabriel Jesus (Manchester City)
Aaron Martin (Espanyol)
Borja Mayoral (Real Madrid)
Kylian Mbappe (Paris Saint-Germain)
Emre Mor (Celta Vigo)
Reece Oxford (Borussia Moenchengladbach)
Christian Pulisic (Borussia Dortmund)
Marcus Rashford (Manchester United)
Allan Saint-Maximim (Nice)
Dominic Solanke (Liverpool)
Youri Tielemans (Monaco)
Enes Unal (Villarreal)
Kyle Walker-Peters (Tottenham)




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ENGLAND'S DREAMING

On-loan striker Bethany aims to improve her game at Liverpool Ladies and break into the senior international side




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Bethany England's face adorned billboards on the London Underground this summer as part of Chelsea Ladies' promotional campaign for the new FA Women's Super League season.

But the Barnsley-born attacker will spend 2017/18 in the red shirt of Liverpool Ladies after sealing a season-long loan from the Blues just ahead of the new campaign.

Manager Scott Rogers made his move for the former England Under-23s international after seeing Dutch Euros winner Shanice van de Sanden secure a transfer to UEFA Women's Champions League winners Lyon.

And indeed Shanice's no11 shirt will now be worn by Bethany, who had no hesitation in moving north.

"Liverpool is a top-four contender – they have been for many years," she says. "Scott got in touch and just sold the club to me really. I'm a young player and I want to play, and from what he thinks I can bring to the team and from what I know I can bring, then hopefully it's a move that is going to help strengthen the squad moving forward and stay in that top four position, if not even compete for a place in the Champions League next year.

"I already knew quite a few of the girls and they are quite a tight-knit group. They have just made me feel so welcome. Just being here for a couple of weeks, I probably couldn't have thought of a better environment to come into. They are all very welcoming, very friendly and they know that when they get on the pitch they get the job done. So its a good environment to be in and I'm sure I'll learn a lot here."

The 23-year-old had shot to prominence in 2015 when she scored 14 times in all competitions to help Doncaster Rovers Belles earn promotion to the top flight after finishing second in FA Women's Super League 2. That form saw her join Chelsea, for whom she found the net five times in 19 appearances in her first season, seven of which came as a starter. She also came on as a substitute in the Women's FA Cup final at Wembley.

England only signed a new two-year deal with the West London club in April but jumped at the chance to join the Reds where she will play in a forward role again, having been deployed as an attacking wing-back by Chelsea during the Spring Series.

"I'm probably hoping to be used more as a nine or a ten, but there is tough competition in this team.

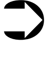
"I'm not coming here expecting to just walk in. They've got some great players and all I can do is train hard and show that I can bring something to the team and hopefully it works out.

I COULDN'T HAVE COME TO A BETTER PLACE; EVERYONE IS SO WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY

"I went to Chelsea as a forward and played as a wing-back in the Spring Season but that's not the position I see myself in or where I believe my strengths lie. I think Scott knows that I am more effective up-top. I'm getting used to a forward role again and I think getting involved in that will be quite fundamental to my growing as a player here."

Bethany has plenty of experience in her young career and hopes to follow the example of Liverpool team-mate Laura Coombs, who enjoyed a successful season-long loan from Chelsea in 2016.

"I didn't really know Coombsy until she came back to Chelsea at the end of the 2016 season after her initial loan here, but I knew her as a player as pretty much everyone knows everyone else in this league! From what I saw, she'd improved a lot and I think Chelsea felt that too. I think that was a benchmark in knowing





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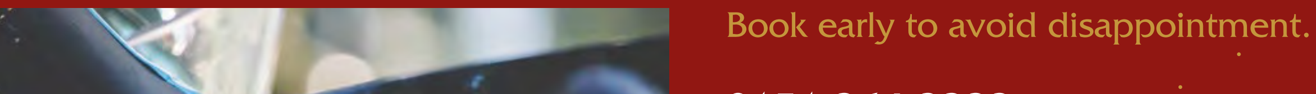
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THE BOSS IS TRYING TO DEVELOP THE GROUP AND BRING ON THE YOUNG PLAYERS

that you can come somewhere on a loan and improve yourself, and obviously for Laura it turned out to be a permanent move which is great for her. I don't know what is going to happen in the future, but as long as I'm improving then I'm happy.

"There are a lot of really exciting young players in the squad. I feel like one of the oldest, to be fair, and I'm only 23! But I don't think being young necessarily means that you haven't got what it takes because of your inexperience. From what I've seen, Scott's done a really good job with the girls in getting them prepared for big games and so on.

"I've been part of the WSL for a while now and been involved in a few big games so hopefully I can bring a bit of experience to the team as well."

With Brooklyn-born defender Satara Murray holding an English passport (and having been called up for England's U23s) it could be argued that the Liverpool squad is now entirely British.

"I think international experience is always good to have in a team but again homegrown players can sometimes be overlooked in that sense," says Bethany. "What I like about Scott is yes, it's a young team, but he is trying to develop the group he has and he's bringing on young players which you don't get too much of in many WSL 1 clubs now.

"That is a real positive for Liverpool, knowing that they are bringing on these young players and getting them to progress and move forward in their careers."

The new campaign will also see the women's season revert back to a schedule more in keeping with the men, and Bethany believes it is a good move. "I think it will be good for us because we play on an artificial pitch so that's not going to cause any problems with the weather. But other than the pitches, it's a better way to go back to this schedule because it gives the international girls more time to recover from games.

"If they've got a World Cup or a Euros, then I think it's really important to have a bit of a break alongside that. People can underestimate how important that recovery time is and how much you do need that time away. This structure has given the international players a bit of time to get away, relax and chill out and then come back knowing that they can go straight into the season."

And with a surname like hers, Bethany hopes her own international ambitions can receive a boost from linking up with Liverpool.

"Looking at what I'm hoping to achieve in the next 12 months, my goals are simple: I just want to play and score and put my marker down, especially for the England set-up.

"I've been involved in that for quite a number of years but my time with the U23s has come to an end, so my next focus is obviously on the seniors. That's a really tough team to get into at the minute and they've got some really great players but, again, the more I improve, the better chance I'll have of knocking on their door a bit more.

"I'm sure that I can do that working with Scott here at Liverpool."

Scott Rogers on Bethany England

"She's a fantastic talent. We are lucky that Chelsea have decided that she needed to go out on loan and that they see us as a club that develops players into realising their potential. She's a fantastic player, a great technician who is strong, good in the air and understands the game really well. We've been very happy with what we've seen so far and I'm sure she will be a fantastic addition to the squad. We see her as a senior international in years to come and the aim is to get her onto the senior national-team radar while she's here and make sure she develops as a footballer and as a person. I think that's something we do quite well at this football club."



In action in the recent Merseyside derby win

Interview William Hughes

POETRY IN MOTIO

"Still Barnes...that's a fabulous individual goal!" One moment of Anfield brilliance three decades ago

Tuesday 17 October marks 30 years since John Barnes scored one of Anfield's greatest goals. His slaloming run from the halfway line against Queens Park Rangers capped the latest in a string of breathtaking performances by Liverpool's class of 1987/88 and was ranked as his favourite goal by the man himself.

Barnes at his best was a scintillating sight. Having made the move north from Watford in the summer of 1987, he consistently had Kopites in raptures with his blend of pace, grace, strength and skill. He glided across the grass, leaving opponents trailing, and was the undoubted star of one of the most entertaining sides Liverpool FC has produced in the course of its 125-year history.

Just as importantly, he became the first high-profile black player at the club, making an incredible impact on and off the pitch.

At the end of the 1986/87 campaign Liverpool had been de-throned as champions by Everton and striker Ian Rush had signed for Juventus. Player-manager Kenny Dalglish went about creating a different kind of attacking threat. John Aldridge had been brought in at the back-end of the previous season and two of English football's biggest attacking talents were acquired to link with him: Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

Expectation was particularly high ahead of that game against QPR in mid-October. To give some context, manager Jim Smith's side had also excelled themselves in the opening two months of the campaign and arrived in L4 full of optimism for what was a top-of-the-table clash.

The West Londoners sat top of the pile, having won eight, drawn one and lost one of their opening ten games, while Dalglish's Reds were three points adrift with two games in hand having won seven and drawn one to remain unbeaten so far.

QPR were using the (for its time) revolutionary concept of a sports psychologist as part of their preparations, to improve the effectiveness of both the coaching staff – led by manager Smith and assistant Peter Shreeves – and the players. They were even filmed by the BBC for a documentary.

Jim, though, had not endeared himself to opposite number Kenny in the build-up to the game with comments made about referees at





Illustration: Ilan Sheady

John's first goal that day was almost as good: Whelan finds Barnes who plays a one-two with Aldridge and scores in front of the Kop

Anfield. "I think you'd have to knock down both ends of the ground before a visiting team could win a penalty there!" he is reported to have said.

Kenny, in his diary of the season, *The Liverpool Year*, writes for 16 October 1987: "The issue was raised at my press conference at Anfield, giving me the ideal opportunity to counter Smith's claims. The fact of the matter is that we attack probably more than any other team and, as a result, more tackles are made on our players in the penalty area. If defenders do not tackle properly in the box, a penalty should be given."

The boss added: "Thankfully all our players on international duty this week returned injury-free and I was able to name the side that had been selected for last week's postponed match at Wimbledon. A familiar face was also back at Anfield today. Ian Rush popped in for a cup of tea and to renew old acquaintances. He will be at tomorrow's match, so I hope we can put on a good show for our celebrated 'old boy'."

Such was the draw of Barnes, Beardsley, Aldridge and company that queues quickly formed around the ground, and thousands were locked out. The visitors began brightly with striker Gary Bannister and full-back Ian Dawes both going close in the opening exchanges.

But once Craig Johnston opened the scoring just before half-time – a right-footed shot from a Barnes assist – Liverpool took control.



The new signing with his happy manager









WHENEVER A TACKLE CAME IN I'D TRY TO PUSH THE BALL PAST THEM AND RIDE THE CHALLENGE

When Aldridge converted a penalty 20 minutes after the break, after a Barnes free-kick was handled in the area, he set a club record of scoring in ten consecutive league matches.

But not even Aldo's scoring stat could eclipse Barnes. Having helped in the creation of the first two goals, he took centre-stage for two further efforts both in front of the Kop.

His first came after Ronnie Whelan dispossessed John Byrne on the edge of the area. He played a one-two with Aldridge before steering his shot past goalkeeper David Seaman. Then in the 85th minute came a goal which was, to borrow the words of the Anfield song, poetry in motion.

As he won possession on the halfway line, BBC commentator John Motson took up the story. "Barnes won it... He's got Beardsley going to his left... Still Barnes... THAT'S A FABULOUS INDIVIDUAL GOAL! A brilliant goal from John Barnes to grace this fine stadium!"

Daily Mirror journalist Brian Reade was among those who had the perfect view. Writing for the *87/88 Uncut* magazine celebrating the 25th anniversary of that 17th title-winning campaign, he painted the picture:

"In the Kemlyn Road Stand, ten rows up from the front to the left of the halfway-line, I had a close-up view of one of the all-time great Anfield sights: a goalbound John Barnes in full flow.

"[It was] his finest goal, and the one that sums up the season in these eyes. It was one of those instances where your brain struggles to keep up with what your eyes are seeing. A piece of genius.

"Forget his legendary goal against Brazil at the Maracana. This, to me, was Barnes' best strike."

By the final whistle, Liverpool's 4-0 win had seen them leapfrog over QPR to the summit of the league table where they would stay until the end of the season. They remained unbeaten until March and racking up 90 points from the 40-game campaign, scoring 87 goals as they finished nine points clear of Manchester United.

And while much had been made about QPR's use of sports psychology, manager Smith admitted that his pre-match talk had taken a different slant. "We got down on our knees and prayed!" he quipped after the match.

The *Sunday Times* hailed Barnes' contribution but also noted the synergy between Liverpool's players and fans: "No team has divine right to the league championship. But such hunger exists at Liverpool that when pretenders from the south come up to play, more than 3,000 are locked outside. The determination which rolls from the stands containing close to 44,000 customers almost compels the destruction of the opposition."

This was a Liverpool team whose future had been questioned once Rush had left for Italy. The Welshman said after the match: "We didn't win the league last season so there was room for improvement. [Liverpool] are a big club. They know what they are doing and they have acquired two world-class players in John Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

"Barnes has so much skill and he livens up the game. He scored two great goals and took the limelight away from Beardsley, who works so hard and makes openings for other people.

"With wingers, Liverpool have given themselves even more options and their opponents just don't know where to look."





John leaning on a Kop-end post in his trackie...as you do

Dalglish was pleased with the way that Liverpool had overcome QPR's sweeper system which had received many accolades during their fine start to the season. But never one to let the club rest on its laurels, he spent the next day adding another new player into the mix with Ray Houghton completing a £825,000 move from Oxford United.

Houghton told the *Daily Mirror*: "I've seen quite a bit of John Barnes, and since he's been at Anfield, he's been a revelation. He was always a good player – now he's something else. If my form is lifted in a similar way I'll be thrilled."

Local musician and Reds fan Peter Hooton had co-founded the influential Liverpool fanzine *The End* which would publish for the final time during the 1987/88 season.

"We went to a different level," he recalled. "Barnes was doing things we had never seen before – he could do stuff we had only seen the Brazilians doing. I think they were the best football team I have seen at Liverpool. We were that good we just knew anything was possible."

Barnes had initially assumed that he would be operating in a forward partnership with Aldridge when he put pen to paper on his £900,000 transfer in June 1987, following months of fevered speculation.

"I was completely convinced Kenny bought me to partner John Aldridge upfront. 'Kenny', I asked shortly after signing, 'where will I be playing?' Without a second's pause he replied: 'Left-wing'. Kenny knew that Peter Beardsley, a clever support striker, would soon be joining. I had thought my left-wing days were over."

Not that it mattered. Within nine minutes of his Reds debut – against Arsenal at Highbury – he'd created a goal for Aldridge in a 2-1 win. With Anfield out of action at the start of the season due to a collapsed sewer under the Kop, he had to wait until mid-September for his Anfield bow, marking the occasion with a goal and an assist in a 2-0 win over Oxford United.

Dalglish was typically deadpan when asked for his post-match thoughts: "Barnes did what we expected him to do. He made a goal, scored one, and entertained."

The no10 weighed in with 17 goals in 48 matches that season as the Reds romped to the league title and came within a whisker of winning a second double in three years only to fall to a shock defeat by Wimbledon in the FA Cup final.

In a later autobiography he admitted that the early part of that 87/88 campaign was "a golden period. Everything I tried worked; every trick or dribble, feint or pass produced something...

"The memory of that match against Queens Park Rangers burns more vividly in my mind than any other I played for Liverpool.

"My second goal began in the centre-circle. Although I usually started on the left I often moved inside at Liverpool and I was too deep for the centre-halves to step out and pick me up.

IT WAS HIS FINEST GOAL AND THE ONE THAT SUMS UP THE WHOLE 87/88 SEASON IN MY EYES

"Rangers had possession and [their midfielder] Kevin Brock tried to dribble past me. I just stuck a foot out and nicked the ball. Terry Fenwick rushed in to repair the damage so I pushed the ball to the left of him. Whenever would-be tacklers came sliding in, I tried to toe the ball past them, ride the challenge and regain balance and the ball on the other side. After I pushed the ball past Fenwick I landed and brought the ball back with my left foot in one movement. It was difficult to see why I didn't fall over or how I changed direction.

"Peter Beardsley made a run outside and Alan McDonald, who was tracking Peter's run, moved across. As I saw McDonald coming, I checked back inside him, tricked Gavin Maguire and glided through on goal. I meant to side-foot the ball and this time it stayed low and flew past David Seaman.

"I'd once scored a good goal at Arsenal, where I dribbled past four players, but that second against QPR was the most unforgettable."

Words: William Hughes

Neil Mellor

That clinical edge will return if we stay strong mentally

Keep creating chances. That's the only way Liverpool will resolve the issue of not being clinical enough in front of goal, a problem that has meant Jürgen Klopp's side have drawn games that they should have won during the last month.

Confidence is a huge factor for strikers. If you go through a spell when you're not taking opportunities that come your way, you have to mentally focus on doing the right things: maintain your movement, keep getting into the right places, continue taking shots. Eventually, even if it takes a lucky break, the goals will come and things will turn around.

When players are missing chances, though, it affects the whole team. If you know you've got a player or two that will consistently put the ball into the back of the net it inspires confidence throughout the side. But when that isn't happening, all of a sudden you feel under more pressure. Panic can set in, a desperation to score can make you lose your calm and the team suffers as a result.

The mental side of football has changed, even since I was playing. The players are now well-equipped with people around them who ensure they are mentally prepared for games. They help them to deal with the mental challenges that injuries or loss of form can create.

Liverpool's players will all be well-aware of their ability – they know they wouldn't be at Anfield if they didn't have it – but they must keep a strong mindset during frustrating periods such as this. They can practise finishing all they want in training, but mentally they have to go into games believing they will score goals and they will turn draws into wins. That clinical edge has been lacking, but you have to stay mentally sharp as much as physically sharp for it to return.

From a supporters' perspective, the encouraging thing is that Liverpool continue to create goalscoring chances in every game. The stats show the Reds are the most creative team in the Premier League and that remains a huge positive, with the additional pace Mo Salah has brought to the team – and the return of the creative Coutinho – making Klopp's team hugely exciting to watch.

But a combination of poor finishing, poor decision-making, good goalkeeping and bad luck – for instance when Gini Wijnaldum's header came back off the post at Newcastle it fell to a defender not an attacker – mean results have not been as good as they should have been and that must change quickly.

The Manchester United and Tottenham games after the international break are huge. There's a sense of frustration that the Reds haven't put the points on the board that their performances deserved and the difference with Liverpool v Man United this season, compared to last, is that Jose Mourinho's side are a direct rival again.

They're a much better side that has started the season well, but visiting Anfield will be their biggest challenge so far and it'll be interesting to see if they set up as negatively as last season, when they were happy to play for a 0-0 draw, or if they open up more, which might suit Liverpool.

Tottenham, for whatever reason, are rarely mentioned as title-contenders but I think they're a top, top side with a superb manager in Mauricio Pochettino and in Harry Kane they have a player who is in the form of his life and is probably the best striker in the Premier League.

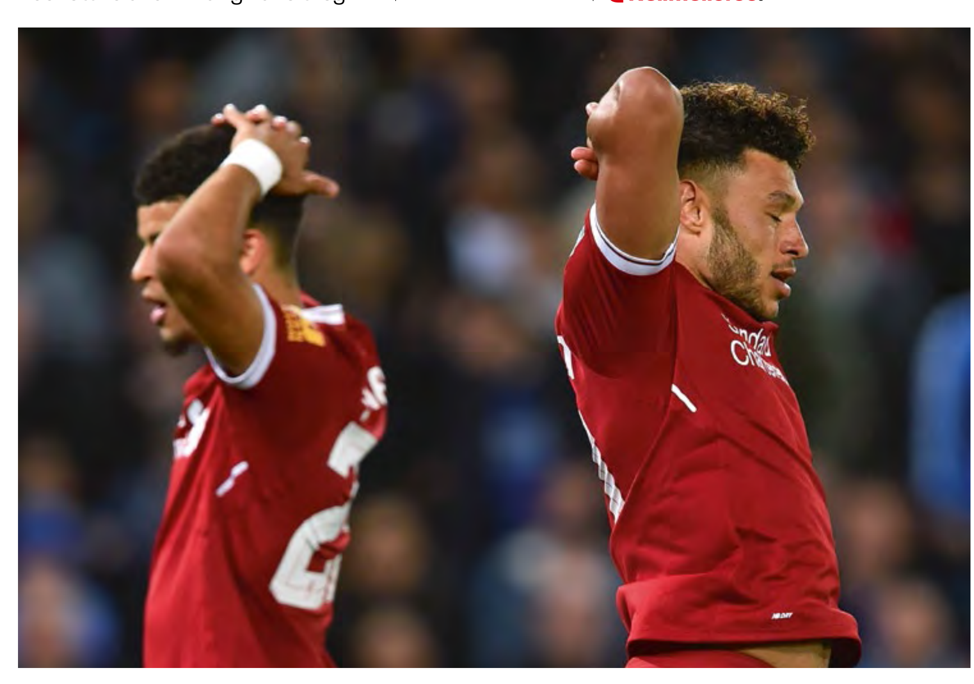
However, they've not started particularly well at Wembley and Liverpool are the type of team who can go there and get a result because there will be space for pacy attacking players such as Sadio Mane to exploit.

Positive results in both games would give everyone a timely confidence-boost. But whatever happens it is important to remember there is a very long way to go this season and that for Liverpool we are still looking for progression.

Ultimately we want to be winning trophies, but when you think that Klopp has delivered two cup final appearances and the return of Champions League to Anfield in his first two seasons, while playing attacking football that everybody enjoys watching, then you can't argue with the progress.

The Premier League has never been more competitive – for all the money that has been spent, only one club can win the title – and Liverpool remain well-placed to have a successful season, providing they find a clinical edge in front of goal.

Follow Neil on Twitter **@NeilMellor33**.



From whom did the Reds sign Czech midfielder Patrik Berger, seen here modelling the new Siganture Collection, in 1996?

Answer on page 98

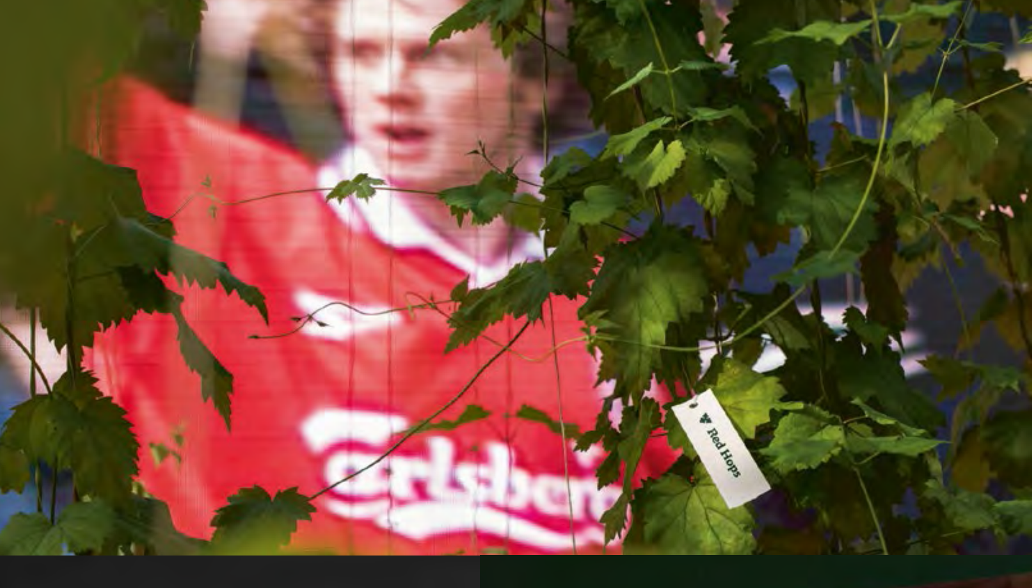
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All the latest news as the club and its players strive to make a difference on and off the pitch

CLUB




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SPION HOP

It's the beer brewed on pure passion, say long-time partners

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of its partnership with the club, Carlsberg has brewed a limited-edition beer using unique research and state-of-the-art technology that 'harnesses the fan atmosphere of 25 years of Liverpool FC matches'.

Scientists at the Carlsberg Research Laboratory in Copenhagen have cultivated special red hop plants by 'immersing' them in a quarter-century of LFC footage, particularly the sound of roaring fans!

The process was made possible by the installation of a powerful sound system and 360 video screen at the brewery's Copenhagen greenhouse, displaying Liverpool matches.

One boffin says: "Research has shown that hop plants grow better when exposed to sound vibrations, which will result in more photosynthesis and more biomass. We decided to use this to brew probably the best fan beer in the world to commemorate Carlsberg's and LFC's joint 25-year history."

In addition to video and sound, the cultivation also included visits from Reds boss Jürgen Klopp, and Liverpool legends Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman. "As players we were all influenced by the roar of the supporters at Anfield so it makes sense that the hops could experience the influence, too," says Robbie.

"Seeing the amount of science that went into this project was staggering, I've never seen anything like the thinking that went into creating this beer and I can't wait to taste it."

After six months, the red hops were harvested to brew the special Carlsberg Liverpool FC Beer, which will be sampled in pubs and at Anfield on the day of the Premier League match against Huddersfield Town on Saturday 28 October 2017.

Billy Hogan, the club's managing director and chief commercial officer, adds: "The Carlsberg relationship with Liverpool Football Club is one of the longest-standing partnerships in sport [and] we couldn't be more proud of it.

"Creating a beer that has grown up on the roar of our supporters and in the soil of Anfield is completely unique and indicative of the fresh-thinking which keeps our long-standing relationship so full of energy."

LFC celebrates BHM

Black History Month is 30 years young and Anfield is the venue for a special evening

Liverpool FC is teaming up with the Football Association and the Liverpool County Football Association to host a special evening this month in recognition of Black History Month.

Taking place at Anfield on Friday 20 October (from 6.30pm), the three-hour event will bring together the local community, guest-speakers and former players to recognise the multi-cultural and diverse football history on Merseyside.

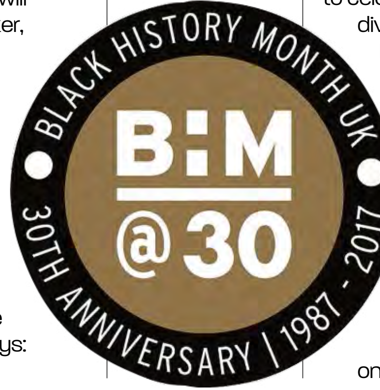
There will also be an update on the BAME inclusion initiatives currently being run on both a local and national level, in addition to news on changes made to the FA's coaching pathway.

Dr Colin King, of the Black and Asian Coaches Association, will be attending as guest speaker, with additional speakers to be confirmed.

The night will also provide networking opportunities for the region's BAME coaches who, as part of the FA's Coach Mentor programme, will be offered on-the-ground support to assist in their development.

Dave Pugh, chief executive officer of the Liverpool FA, says: "We are so proud to support Black History Month and this event provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the multi-cultural and diverse footballing history on Merseyside.

"We've made great strides over the past two years to increase the number of BAME players, coaches and referees within Merseyside and at this event at Anfield we can celebrate and recognise all the work our staff and communities do on a daily basis to deliver football for all on Merseyside."





Own a piece of LFC history...



with the LFC Foundation Monthly Shirt Auction and help raise vital funds for the Club's official charity.

To celebrate the Club's 125th anniversary, each month throughout the season we'll auction a special 17/18 Home Team shirt signed by a unique selection of Liverpool Football Club's legendary players and managers, past and present.

Special collections will include 2005 Istanbul Winners, Midfield Generals and Shankly's Greats.

Funds raised will help support the work of the LFC Foundation and its mission to create life changing opportunities for children and young people.

You can find out more about the work of the LFC Foundation by visiting www.liverpoolfc.com/foundation

To take part in this month's auction please visit: www.charitystars.com/LFCFoundation

HANDY ANDY

Left-back helps drop off donations as LFC continues to support Foodbanks scheme

Reds defender Andy Robertson has been supporting the club's commitment to Fans Supporting Foodbanks.

He recently dropped off two bags full of donations at the St Andrew's Community Network near Anfield, to be distributed by North Liverpool Foodbank.

LFC's Red Neighbours initiative continues its support of Fans Supporting Foodbanks, with collections at every Premier League matchday at Anfield.

Supporters can drop off any non-perishable food donations at the foodbank collection points located on Anfield Road next to the Family Park (open 1pm till kick-off) and inside the new Anfield Superstore (9am to 5.30pm).

Priority items include: UHT Milk; long-life juice or cordial; jar pasta/curry sauce; tinned meat; tinned vegetables; instant mash; rice-pudding/custard; jam; toiletries; cup-a-soup/noodles; washing tablets.

Liverpool is ranked the fourth most deprived local authority area in the country (England has 353 local authorities) and the greatest concentration of deprivation in Liverpool is in the north of the city.



A total of 1,899 Foodbank parcels were given out in L4, L5 and L6 during 2016. Throughout last season, Red Neighbours facilitated the collection of 3609.7kg on a matchday for North Liverpool Foodbank which equates to 11,000 meals provided for local families in and around Anfield. Already this season 608kg has been collected across six games.

■ **A big shout for the LFC fans who took two shopping trolleys' worth of food and essentials to the Newcastle West End foodbank before the match with the Magpies. Local foodbank organisers were full of praise for an incredible gesture.**





KIRKBY CALLING

Progress report as the club aims to bring first-team and Academy football together on one site

Liverpool FC has submitted further details to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council on its design for the proposed redevelopment of the Academy site in Kirkby.

Outline planning permission was previously granted by KMBC and the latest submission deals with the outstanding information around the layout, access, scale and appearance of the proposed development.

The club's vision is to bring its first-team and Academy football training operations and facilities together on one site in Kirkby. The proposal includes the construction of a new combined training centre, the redevelopment of the existing facilities at the Academy and designs to convert the main pitch into an indoor pitch. The plans also include improvements to the community playing fields at Simonswood Lane.

The club's CEO Peter Moore says: "The outline approval by KMBC was another step on the journey in achieving our vision to bring our first-team players and young players together on one site.

"We received positive feedback from local residents and businesses on our proposals during the public consultation earlier this year and we thank them for their continued support."

Knowsley Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Councillor Graham Morgan, adds: "The council and LFC have worked closely with the local community throughout the planning process and we are pleased the [outline] plans have received such an overwhelmingly positive response.

"I'm also delighted that the local community and sports clubs in Kirkby will benefit from the scheme with much-improved football pitches and sports facilities at Simonswood Lane.

"It is a great vote of confidence in Knowsley that an organisation of Liverpool Football Club's stature wants to expand its facilities in the borough."

While the new submission marks another step forward on the club's journey to bring its first-team and Academy football-training operations and facilities together on one site, there are a number of other key milestones and consents required before the certainty needed to progress the redevelopment of the Academy site is achieved.



Peter Moore has thanked local residents



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ANFIELD 2017/18

All you need to know about getting to the ground and making an awesome experience of it

On the club's official website there is a comprehensive guide entitled *Visiting Anfield* where fans and visitors can find information on facilities at the stadium and things to do in the city of Liverpool.

Available to download, the guide explains how LFC prides itself on being inclusive and working with all its supporters, recognising that disabled fans may need assistance to fully enjoy the Anfield experience and offering a variety of reasonable adjustments based on individual needs.

Here are a few highlights to help visitors plan their journey to Anfield...

Welcome to Anfield: LFC offers offer an array of accessible services and facilities across the stadium – including a welcoming Fan Support Team which can be easily identified by a prominent information flag. There are also stewards wearing high-visibility jackets on hand around the ground to help you make the most of your matchday experience.

Accessibility: you can download the club's accessibility guide from the official website www.liverpoolfc.com or speak to a member of staff on +44 151 264 2500 for information on accessible toilets, hearing loops, audio headsets and lifts. You can also download the Premier League *Get in!* App, the official matchday accessibility guide; a one-stop shop for fans with accessibility needs that makes attending home and away matches easier than ever before.

Fan Zones: these are open from four hours before kick-off on a matchday. There is one on Anfield Road where you can find food, drink and live music, and another at Paisley Square which is home to live entertainment, food and soft drinks, retail offerings plus the club's official mascot Mighty Red in person on a matchday!

Food kiosks: street-food kiosks are available on a matchday and located in the Fan Zones. Anfield offers an array of meal deals, burgers, hot dogs and pies in kiosks throughout the ground – or try one of our 'Boot Room Sports Cafe' kiosk's gourmet matchday meals, located Kop-side between the Tour Centre and Ticket Office.

Local pubs: there are many around the area, with The Arkles (just next to Anfield Road) and The Sandon (on Walton Breck Road) welcoming home and away supporters.

Stadium Tours: these are available throughout the year, both on a matchday and on a non-matchday. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tours.

Retail store: with all the latest kits, LFC fashion and souvenirs, bring home a memento of your trip to Anfield from the Retail Store, located on Walton Breck Road.

Boot Room Sports Cafe: this is open seven days a week, offering freshly prepared food. On a matchday it is available only for matchday hospitality. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/hospitality.

Hillsborough Memorial: the club has worked with the Hillsborough families to create a fitting location and setting within the design of the expanded Main Stand and surrounding public area.

Photo opportunities: there are various points around the stadium for fans to use, both on a matchday and non-matchday.

Ticket Office: open Mon to Sat, for times visit www.liverpoolfc.com/contactus. Please note that on home matchdays the Ticket Office opening times may vary depending on the kick-off time.

Toilets: located throughout the stadium on a matchday. Baby-changing and baby-feeding facilities are now available on Level 2 of the Main Stand, and in the toilets near the Boot Room Sports Cafe and The Liverpool FC Story entrances.

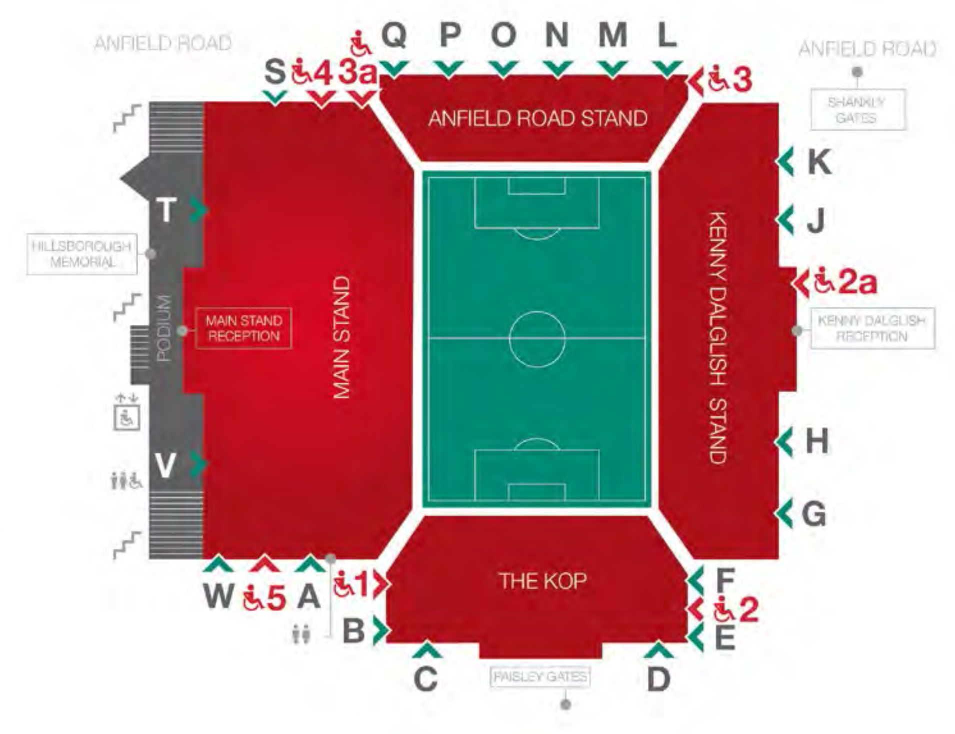
Cash point: there are none available in the ground; however, there is a cash point on Walton Breck Road. Supporters can pay via card throughout the stadium with contactless payment also in place at all kiosks.

Wi-fi: available in the concourse area of each stand. Fans will need to connect to 'Fan Wi-Fi' and register for the free service.

Faith Room: a multi-faith prayer room is available at Anfield, accessible from the Main Stand public realm and located next to the hospitality ticket collection booth. This is open five hours before and 30 minutes after a match.

ARRIVING AT THE STADIUM

Make sure you allow enough time for any necessary security checks which may include random searches. Bringing bags to the stadium is actively discouraged. Fans arriving with a small personal bag should expect this to be searched and tagged before entry. Bringing it may delay your entry and in some cases may lead to non-entry to the stadium. Please do not bring large bags or luggage to Anfield as they cannot be brought into the stadium.



SURPRISE SURPRISE

Who'd like tickets for Liverpool v Manchester United, asks goalie Simon at local school







Reds goalkeeper Simon Mignolet has been back at school to make a special delivery to a group of local pupils.

The shot-stopper recently called into St Francis De Sales Junior School in Walton with free match-tickets for Liverpool's fixture with Manchester United at Anfield, as part of the Red Neighbours Schools Ticketing Initiative. He then took part in a Q&A session before gifting each of the one hundred children a signature card and donating a signed goalkeeper shirt to the school.

Red Neighbours is once again donating more than 1,000 tickets to the 25 local schools in the L4, L5 and L6 areas for the

Red Neighbours photos by Andy Hooper



2017/18 season. Each school will receive eleven free tickets to four Premier League home games at Anfield.

Providing them fulfils one of Red Neighbours' four main aims: creating memorable experiences for young people. The other three objectives are: food poverty and education; creating a physically-active community; and support for the elderly.

LFC FOUNDATION LAUNCHES ITS AUTUMN SCHEDULE



The club's official charity has launched its autumn timetable of programmes for youngsters across Merseyside.

Twenty-six sessions a week, including football and a range of multi-sports, are now available to local children and young people, with nine of them aimed specifically at inclusion or disability audiences.

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, says: "There is something suitable for all ages and abilities across our autumn programmes. The majority of our sessions are free to attend, and they are a great way for local youngsters to stay active and meet new people during the evenings and weekends."

Sessions are held across the Liverpool city region, including Anfield Sports & Community Centre, Walton Hall Park, Toxteth Firefit and Wirral Hive.

More information is available at **www.liverpoolfc.com/foundation**.





THE LFC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE CREATE LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE AND BEYOND. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION

WHAT'S IN



Patrik Berger and his daughter Valentina photographed at Hillbark Hotel & Spa

STORE

SIGNATURE COLLECTION 2017/18

Available at liverpoolfc.com/store and at Anfield, Williamson Square and LiverpoolONE stores



Mens Lambswool V Neck (A10107) **£80**



Holdall Black (A10113) **£130**



Mens Lambswool 1/4 Zip Black (A10108) **£90**



Washbag Brown (A10119) **£50**

Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in all Official Club Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store. And for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram!



Striker Bethany England celebrates her loan-move to Liverpool Ladies in the traditional way!

QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p9: Nicky wrote The Boys From The Mersey; he also contributed to Here We Go Gathering Cups in May with six other authors about LFC's seven European Cup finals; **FOOTBALL p23:** Philippe has scored with free-kicks in the Premier League against Arsenal (away), Crystal Palace (home), Middlesbrough (home) and Leicester City (away) – a bonus point if you also remembered his free-kick at West Ham in the FA Cup replay of 2015/16; **CLUB p83:** Paddy joined the Reds from Borussia Dortmund, following his fine displays for the Czech Republic at Euro 96.







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